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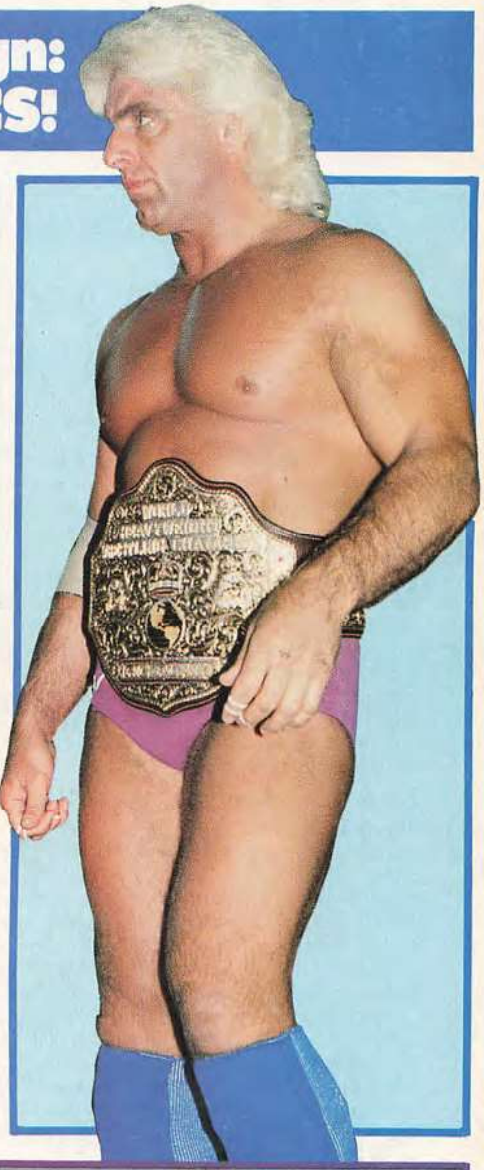

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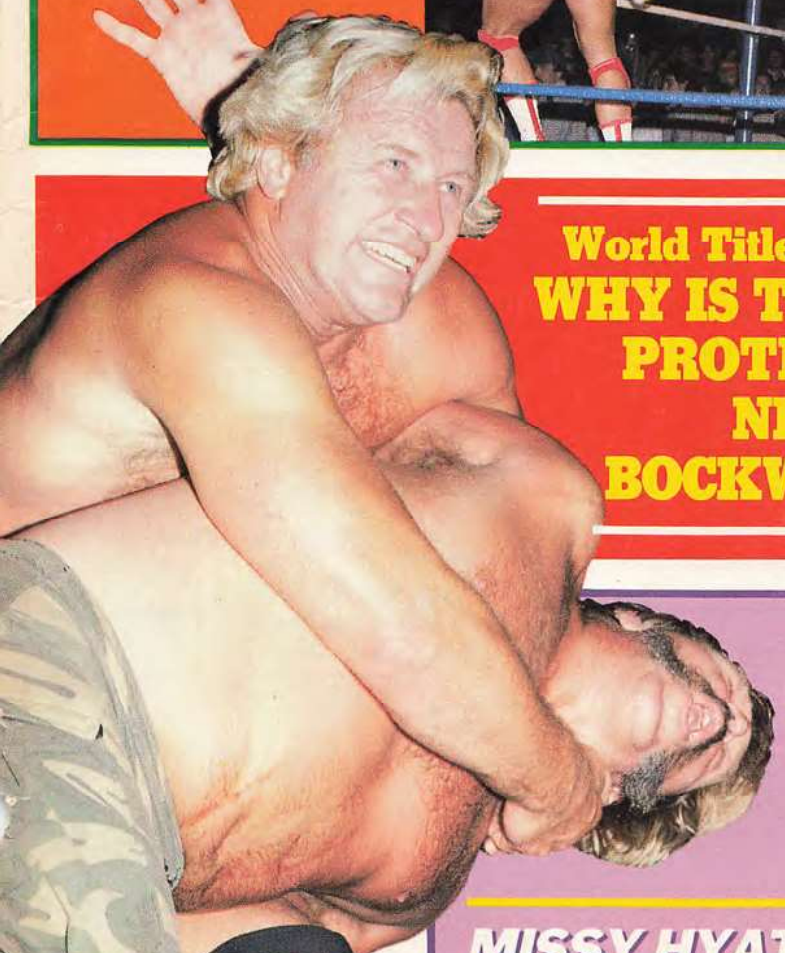

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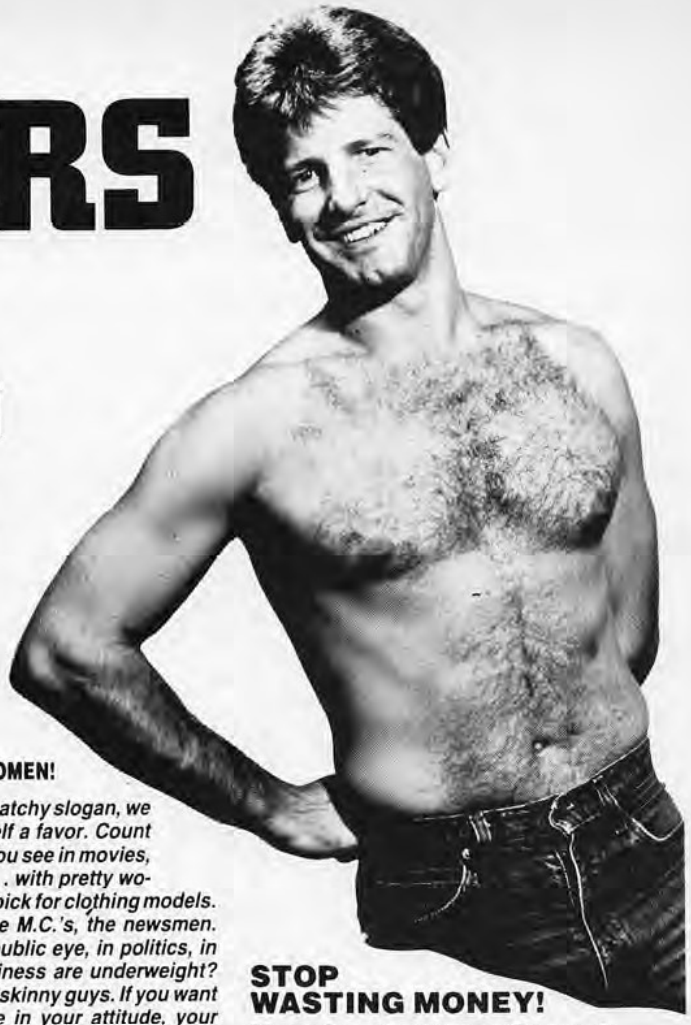

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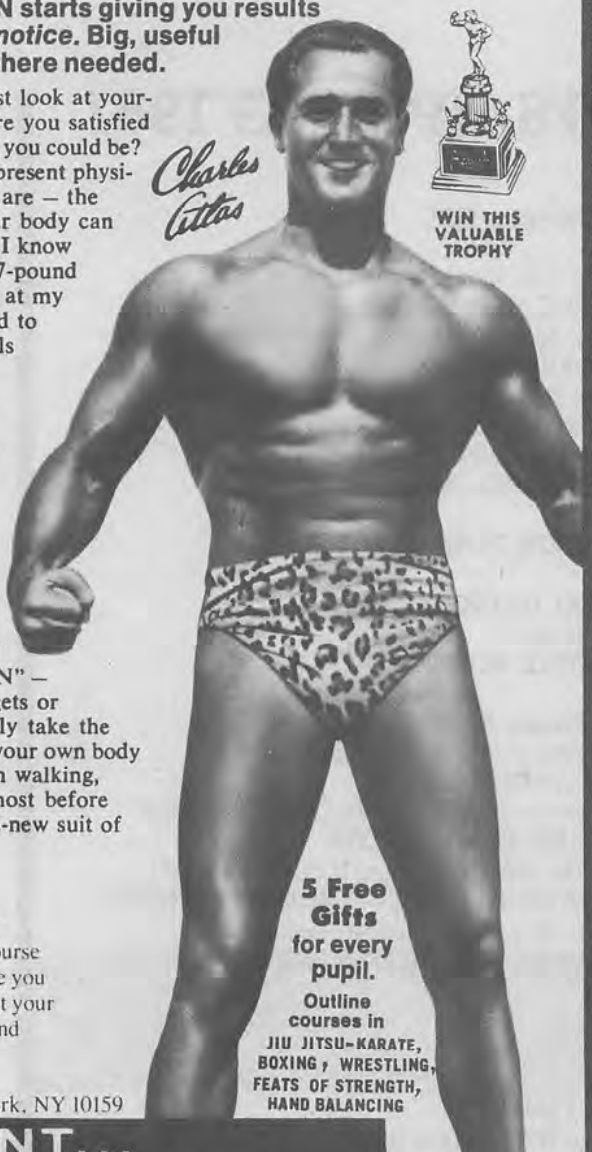

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WRESTLING USA

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INTRODUCTION

WRESTLING'S BEST FROM COAST TO COAST

HAPPY NEW YEAR to all our readers from everyone here at *Wrestling USA.* To get 1987 off to a perfect start, we've assembled the very best interviews, articles, and features from recent editions of our family of publications.

The Spring 1987 *Wrestling USA* draws on many of our titles, including *Pro Wrestling Illustrated, Wrestling 86, The Wrestler, Inside Wrestling,* and *Wrestling Superstars.* We're confident that we've assembled a collection of material that is truly "wrestling's best from coast to coast."

We start off with Stu Saks' **"Dressing Room Confidential"** (page 10) from the January 1987 *Pro Wrestling Illustrated.* In this column, Saks explained why he does not trust Roddy Piper, and why Piper, who was voted 1986's Most Popular Wrestler of the Year, may again become one of the sport's most hated men.

In the December 1986 *Pro Wrestling Illustrated,* Peter King's **"King's Court"** (page 12) examined several relevent issues in the sport, including the WWF Machine phenomenon, Magnum T.A.'s treatment of NWA President Bob Geigel, and Ric Flair's attitude after his title loss to Dusty Rhodes in mid-'86.

The smirk on Larry Sharpe's face is evident as he shows off his prized wrestler, Crusher Yurkof, who was once known as Bam Bam Bigelow. A story in this magazine introduces fans to this new force in wrestling.

It's difficult to find two men with more hatred for each other in wrestling than Michael Hayes and Ted DiBiase. In the December 1986 *Inside Wrestling,* Hayes and DiBiase went **"One On One"** (page 14), displaying their mutual animosity for a nation to read.

1986 saw a remarkable rookie sensation explode on the wrestling scene, and the November 1986 edition of *The Wrestler* presented him in the feature **"Introducing Bam Bam Bigelow"** (page 18). Bigelow, currently

(Continued on page 70)

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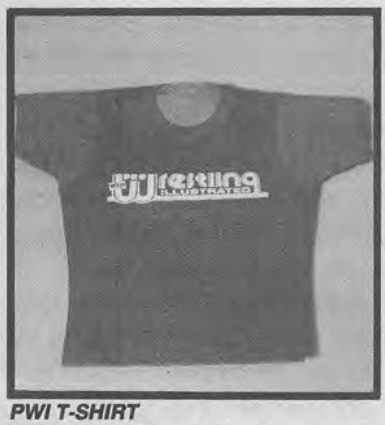

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USA UPDATE

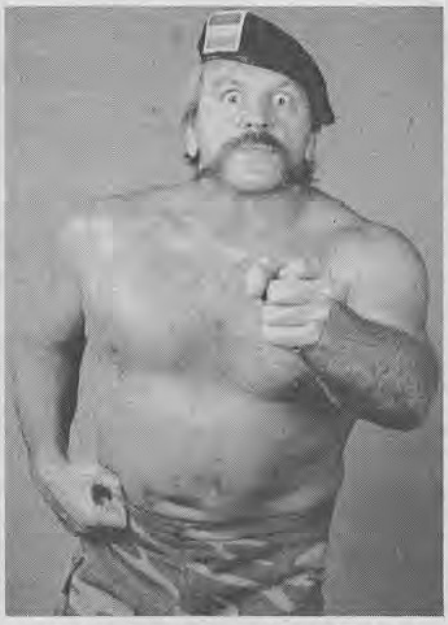
In each issue of *Wrestling USA*, "USA Update" will present the personal views of a wrestler regarding a story presented on him in this magazine. It is a rare opportunity to see another dimension of your favorite wrestlers, and to gain new insights into the most important news events in the sport

By Col. DeBeers

I HAVE CONTACTED my lawyer and we are currently considering litigation against this black propagandist rag you call *Wrestling USA.* This magazine no more represents the views of the thinking American white man than does *Jet* or *Ebony,* two Negro rags that should have been banned long ago but continue to exist in an environment that lets the animals run free in the streets.

I am disgusted that the editors of this magazine have taken the liberty to place my interview right next to an interview done with Jimmy Snuka, a man who would be dead right now if not for a slight miscalculation on my part. I did not take into account the greater hardness of the Polynesian's head, no doubt caused by a steady diet of coconut shells. Next time, I will know better. And there will be a next time.

Right now, I am much more concerned with the editors of *Wrestling USA,* who have gone out of their way to violate my rights as a white man. South Africa follows a policy, a proper policy, I might add, of racial segregation that separates human beings from the animals known as the Negro. We long ago realized something that many Americans



seem to have forgotten: The Negro is of no use to society, other than as a slave for the white man.

The black-skinned Snuka does not have any right to express his views in a magazine that reaches millions of proud, white readers. I have reviewed the "Press Conference" with Jimmy Snuka and find his talk to be extremely offensive. Obviously, the editors knew that I wouldn't consent to being interviewed alongside Snuka so they took the liberty of using my interview out of context.

As I have said, this is being reviewed by my lawyer and action will shortly be taken. The violation regards segregation of reading matter in public journals and the penalty is extremely severe in my country.

I must add, however, that the editors at least had the good taste and foresight to place my interview before the one with Snuka. The readers can now read the words of a well-educated, well-spoken, and respected man such as myself and then compare them to the obviously edited words of an illiterate. The editors of this magazine have done everything in their power to make Snuka appear somewhat intelligent, but they have failed miserably.

Now that some time has passed since my interview first appeared, it would seem proper to look at some of the things I said and see just how prophetic I was. I correctly referred to Scott Hall as a drug addict and he has since left the AWA. I see two reasons for this: Most importantly, I drove him out of the area but also, he realized that his drug addiction was becoming public knowledge. His body was artificially created. He had to escape to avoid further detection.

I also said that Jimmy Snuka should not be allowed to wrestle other proud men in the AWA and, as you all know by now, I had the pleasure of taking action on this matter. Snuka claims that he will return to the ring, but by then he will be ripe for the kill. I anticipate that Snuka will soon be my slave and on his way back to South Africa in cage, ready to be deposited with all of his Negro friends. That is the best he can hope for. I would prefer that he was dead.

I believe that I have said enough. I will continue to fight for the rights of all white men and I will see the editors of *Wrestling USA* in court. □

[Editor's note: The "Q&A" with Col. DeBeers appears on page 35.]

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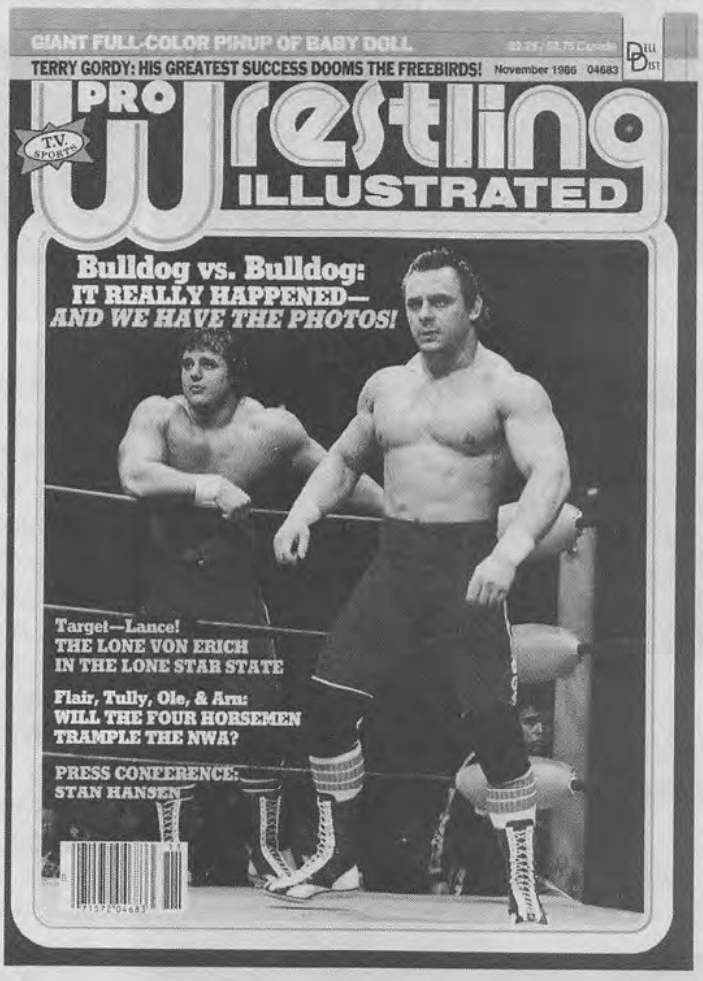

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DRESSING ROOM CONFIDENTIAL

By Stu Saks

Roddy Piper lifts his arms in response to the fans. But don't be fooled—Piper is not seeking their approval. He still feels the same way about the fans, and Stu Saks thinks the fans should not change their opinion of him so quickly.

I WILL NOT be burned by Roddy Piper again. If you people want to trust him or if Hulk Hogan and the boys want to trust him, that's fine. But for myself, no sir, never again.

The headline screams across the cover of this magazine, and, frankly, I was opposed to it: "Great Scot! Rowdy Roddy Piper Turns Good!"

Great Scot, indeed. A guy spends over two years in an area badmouthing every decent human being, he humiliates a man by squishing tropicial fruit in his face, he cuts a struggling preliminary wrestler to ribbons, he physically assaults a skinny record producer, he's voted Most Hated Wrestler. The list goes on and on and on.

Forget all of that, though. Roddy Piper hates Adrian Adonis. He must be a good fella after all. That's what the majority of the fans believe. Based on the one encounter Piper had with Adrian Adonis on "The Flower Shop" where he demanded his time slot back and chewed out Bob Orton for becoming Adonis' "Acey," the office of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* was besieged by letters dripping with praise for the Rowdy Scot. Hulk Hogan, the prototype solid citizen, the man who has fought off WWF slime for almost three years, was shoved into the number two spot in the Most Popular ratings, while Roddy Piper, who never helps anybody but himself, claimed the prestigious number one position.

I don't like Piper. Yet I don't blame him for how the fans think about him. He didn't come before the people proclaiming that he had seen the light, that he will never do bad again, that he now realizes how much he needs the fans. He still says he doesn't care about the fans, he still says he doesn't like Hulk Hogan, and he says he will still wrestle any way he sees fit. All he wants is his TV time back.

Thumbs up to Roddy Piper for being honest, but thumbs down to Roddy Piper for . . . well, for being Roddy Piper. He is not a good person. He is not one for the fans to look up to and he is certainly not one to be trusted as an ally in

(Continued on page 64)

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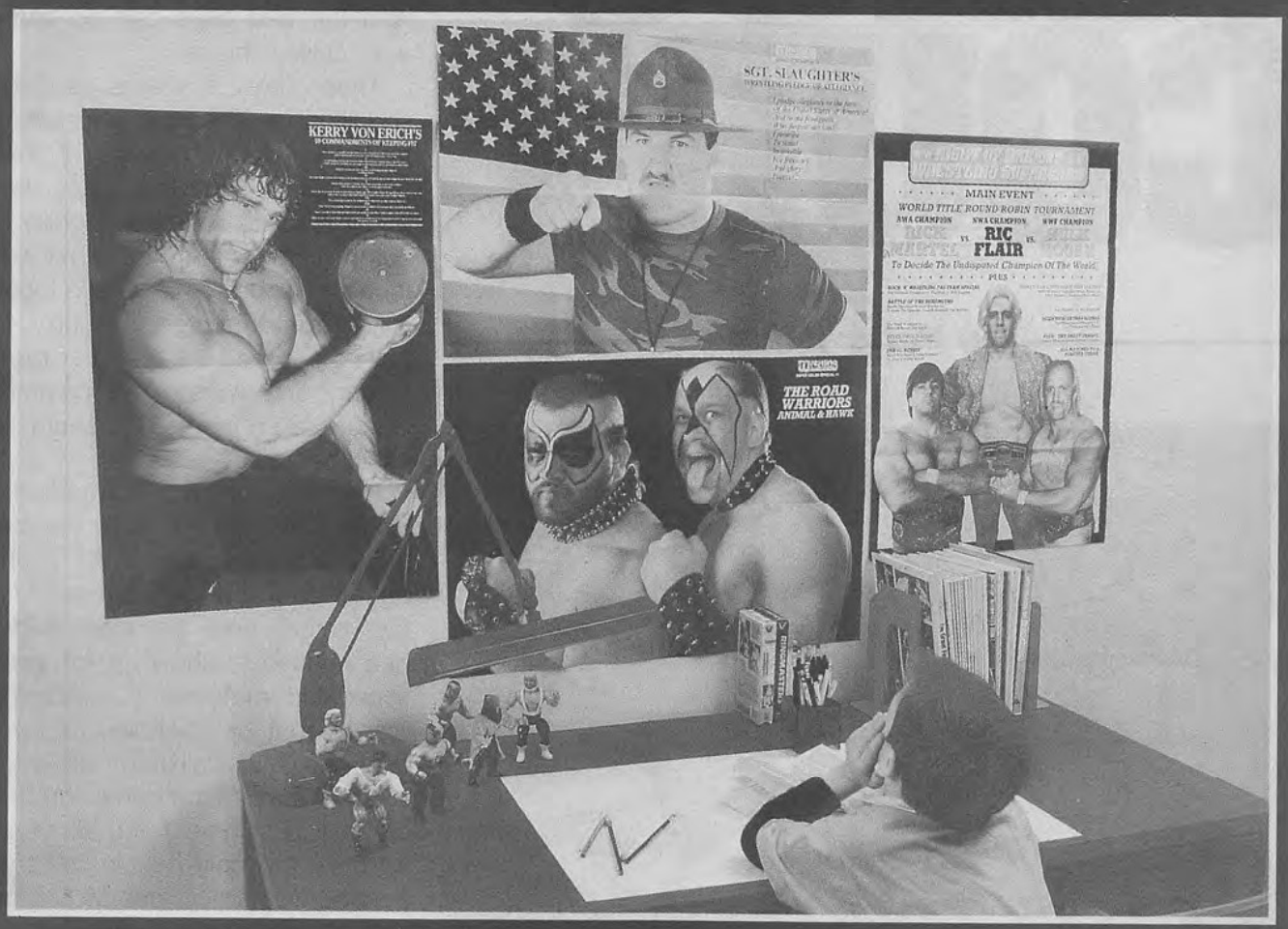

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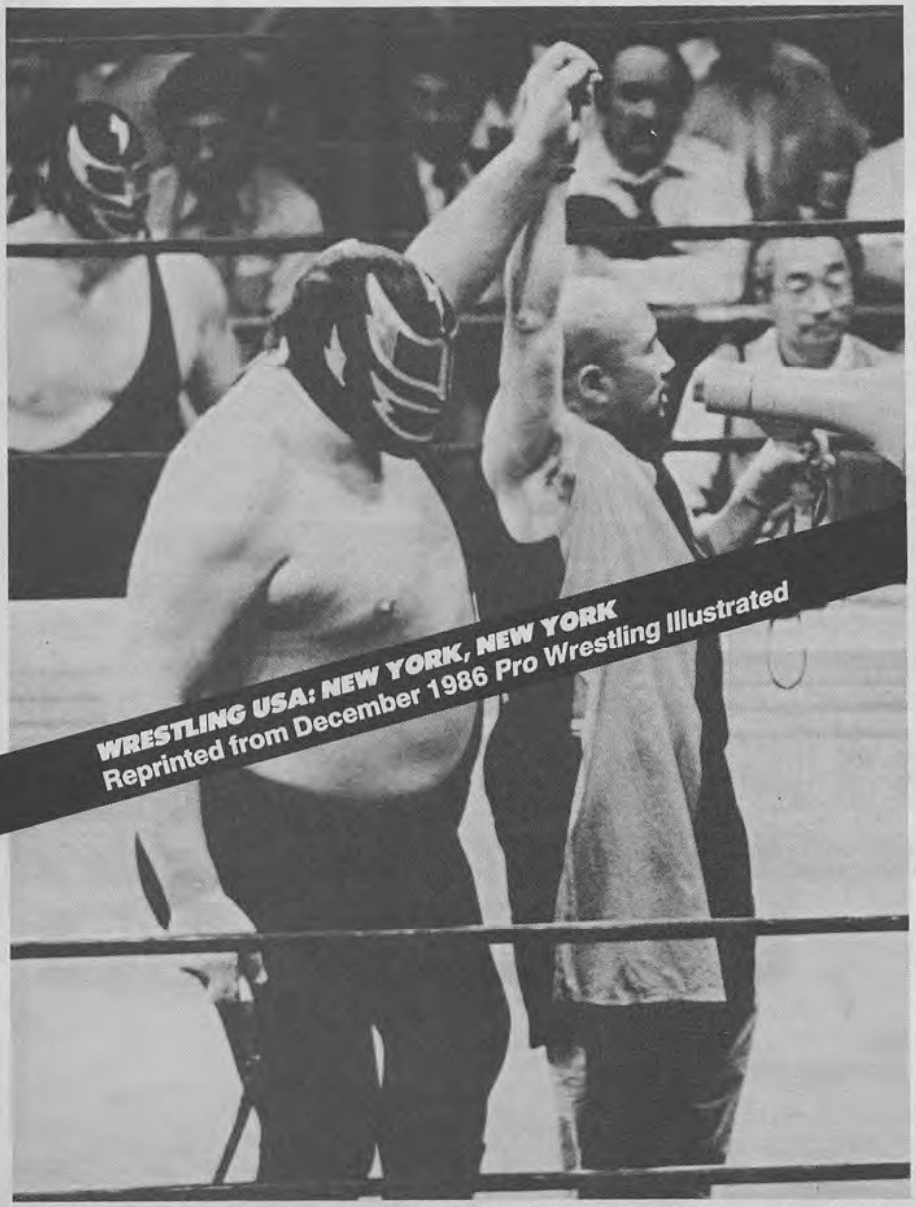
KING'S COURT

By Peter King



The only way to positively prove that the Giant Machine is Andre the Giant is to remove his mask, according to a ruling by WWF President Jack Tunney. Of course, Jack, any one of a number of wrestlers could have a body and a voice like Andre's!

WRESTLING HAS ALWAYS been a sport of great subtleties. Most non-fans think that wrestling is good vs. bad, black vs. white. It's not quite that simple. Sometimes the good guys can do some very bad things. And the bad guys can do some very classy things.

These days, it seems as if the so-called fan favorites are starting to really take advantage of their lofty status. In the past few months, many have been guilty of committing some of the worst sins in all of sport. And what's been their punishment? Nothing. In fact, the cheers of the fans grow louder, and worse, the commissioners and promoters seem to condone their actions.

First case in point: Andre the Giant. Andre was recently slapped with a suspension by WWF President Jack Tunney. The reason for the action was because Andre had refused to show up for three scheduled matches. (Considering the amount of no-shows at a recent Nassau Coliseum show, if the WWF were to follow through on this punishment for all of its athletes, the only people *not* suspended would be Vince McMahon and the little guy who sets up the ring.)

Anyway, right or wrong, the punishment was handed down. A few weeks later, on a WWF television promotion show, the federation's head buffoon, Gene Okerlund, was sent to Japan to interview a "new" tag team comprised of Super Machine and Giant Machine. Of course, Giant Machine was clearly Andre the Giant. After the taped interview was over, Bobby Heenan was furious, and rightfully so. Announcers Vince McMahon and Bruno Sammartino claimed that Giant Machine wasn't Andre, and Bruno added he thought he was *Baba* the Giant, which was almost as ridiculous as saying he was Sky

(Continued on page 78)

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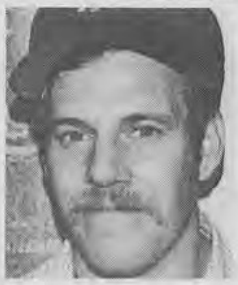

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"I worked on an oil drilling crew out west. We drilled 11 wells one year, every one a gusher! But did I strike it rich? Not on your life—I was paid by the hour and struggled to feed a growing family. That started me to thinking, 'Why should I do all the work while someone else gets all the gravy.'

"About that time I got injured and ended up having to move my family to a different area to take a job as a maintenance mechanic. That idea of controlling my own destiny kept gnawing at me. By now I had five children with extra expense of about $2,400 a year sending the oldest one to a speech and hearing center.

"How could a guy like me save up enough money to start my own business? To get into most businesses you have to own a corner of Fort Knox. If I could only ease into a business without giving up the regular salary I had to count on to put food on the table. And without making any investment. As long as I was dreaming, wouldn't it be great to find something where every single spare time order could bring in *really big* extra money.

"Sound like the impossible dream? Well, I had seen a Pace Products story about a man who earned $4,154.65 on just one Seamless Spray order. And he didn't have to invest a penny. I sent for the free information. Believe me, when I received their literature and saw how easy their field-tested sales kit made everything—I knew it could all be more than just a dream. I decided to become a Pace distributor. And it was the best decision I ever made.

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Tedd Mainwaring

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The telephone wires sizzle every month as two top wrestlers voice their rage and hostility toward each other. This is the unedited transcript of their conversation, your chance to see the raw emotion that results when two antagonists face off . . . One on One

ONE O

WRESTLING USA: SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA
Reprinted from December 1986 Inside Wrestling

"You took a walk down Badstreet, and you done got run over by a steamroller!"
—Michael Hayes

DESCRIBING THE INCIDENT should place the feud in its proper perspective: UWF heavyweight champion Terry Gordy was defending his title in a match against Ted DiBiase. Gordy clotheslined DiBiase and pinned him. Gordy's Freebird partner Michael Hayes entered the ring and began taunting DiBiase.

By now, DiBiase had recovered from the clothesline, and he was not about to put up with Hayes' taunts after a loss. DiBiase hit Hayes in the face several times. Gordy clotheslined DiBiase again and Hayes and Gordy, now aided by Freebird Buddy Roberts, attacked DiBiase in a brutal three-on-one melee that was highlighted by Gordy spiking DiBiase.

Just then, DiBiase's close friend Steve Williams ran into the ring. DiBiase was virtually helpless, and a three-on-one situation quickly developed on Williams. With Hayes and Roberts pushing Williams' legs for extra impact, Gordy delivered a piledriver to Williams on the concrete arena floor.

Williams found himself in the hospital, and DiBiase found himself reliving a horrible memory: The 'Birds had done precisely the same thing to him in 1981 in Atlanta.

*Now DiBiase is out for revenge. He's taken to attacking Hayes during his matches, and he's determined to make Hayes—and, indeed, all three Freebirds—experience the same kind of pain and suffering that Williams experienced. **Inside Wrestling** didn't experience much difficulty in getting these two to agree to speak with each other . . . "One on One."*

TED DIBIASE:
You're a brave man, Hayes, agreeing to speak with me over the phone. Where are your other two buddies, double-teaming some poor old paraplegic in one of those dives you guys hang out in?

MICHAEL HAYES:
Let me tell you something, brother, a paraplegic would put up more of a fight than you did. Where the hell did you ever get your wrestling training, boy? Talk about a sitting duck! You took a walk down Badstreet, and you done got run over by a steamroller! *Hahaha!*

TD: I think you're getting your facts a little mixed up, Hayes. If I remember correctly, you had no business running into the ring when I was wrestling Gordy, and then your other Freebird moron, Buddy Roberts, had to make it three-on-one. I just have one question for you, brother. Why is it that none of you guys can ever fight your own battles?

MH: Hey, man, you took the first swing, if you remember. Maybe your brain was a little too mushy from Bamm Bamm's clothesline, but all I did was come on into the ring, congratulate Bamm Bamm, and say a few words to you. You struck out first, broth-

N ONE

"I'm not one to back down from a challenge by no prissy sissy."
—Ted DiBiase

er, and I reacted out of self-defense.

TD: You have a pretty screwed up idea of saying a few words, boy. You came right into that ring and challenged me, and I wasn't gonna let you get away with it. That was my mistake, Hayes. I should have just waited until I got you into a position where I could handle you on my own, but I'm not one to back down from a challenge by no prissy sissy.

MH: Prissy sis—! Listen up, DiBiase. I don't need to hear any lip from you. I'll do all my talking with you in the ring. And before you know it, you'll be in a hospital bed right next to your buddy "Dr. Death." *Ha!* What a jokc that is, Dr. Death. The Doc is a patient, now! *Hahaha!* How you like *that* one, Teddy boy?

TD: How you gonna like it when you're sharing a hospital room with Gordy and Roberts, mister? What you did to me in '81 I'm never gonna forget and when Steve gets out of that hospital, there's gonna be two mean bro's on the trail of three dead-meat Freebirds. That's what I call a mismatch, *boy.*

MH: Me, too. Three on two. A *definite* mismatch. We oughta wipe your sorry butts all across the UWF in record time.

TD: Speaking of records, Hayes, just the other day I was walking down the street and I could have sworn I heard what sounded like three dying mules moaning "The Boys Are Back In Town" over the radio. I had to cover my ears, it was so bad. Then, I asked somebody what the hell that was and he told me it was this group called The Freebirds and they had a new album out. Now, that wouldn't be you and your buddies singing that God-awful crap, would it, Hayes?

MH: DiBiase, buddy, all your taste is in your butt. You wouldn't know good music if it came up and spit in your eye. But, then, what could I expect? You have about thc same taste in friends. I don't see Steve Williams bouncing back too quickly, buddy. Bad music, bad friends, bad wrestler. You made the hat trick, brother!

TD: Speaking of tricks, Hayes . . .

MH: Now watch it boy.

TD: That was an interesting move you pulled on Dark Journey. When you kissed her, I don't think I've ever seen a woman more nauseated. You always have that effect on women?

MH: Nauseated? Damn, boy, your eyesight is as bad as your wrestling. She loved it. She was just a little upset that I kissed her in front of so many people. DJ's a bit shy, you know.

TD: No, Hayes, I wouldn't know. I treat women with a little more respect than you do, even that slut, Missy Hyatt, who, by the way, would be the perfect woman for you. She's just your type. Maybe when she finally dumps Tatum and gets tired of Gilbert, she'll scrape off the bottom of the barrel and come up with you.

MH: This conversation is getting ridiculous. Almost as ridiculous as you. I'll see you in the ring, punk. In the ring, and in pain. Enjoy your health while you can.

TD: You'd better be ready to live up to those words, scum, because there's gonna be hell to pay. Just mark my words. Freebird Fantasia is dead. □

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INTRODUCING BAM BAM BIGELOW

Bam Bam Bigelow does not have what one would consider traditional athletic roots. In fact, his background might be more intimidating than his 6'3" 390-pound body. The story you are about to read is amazing, but true

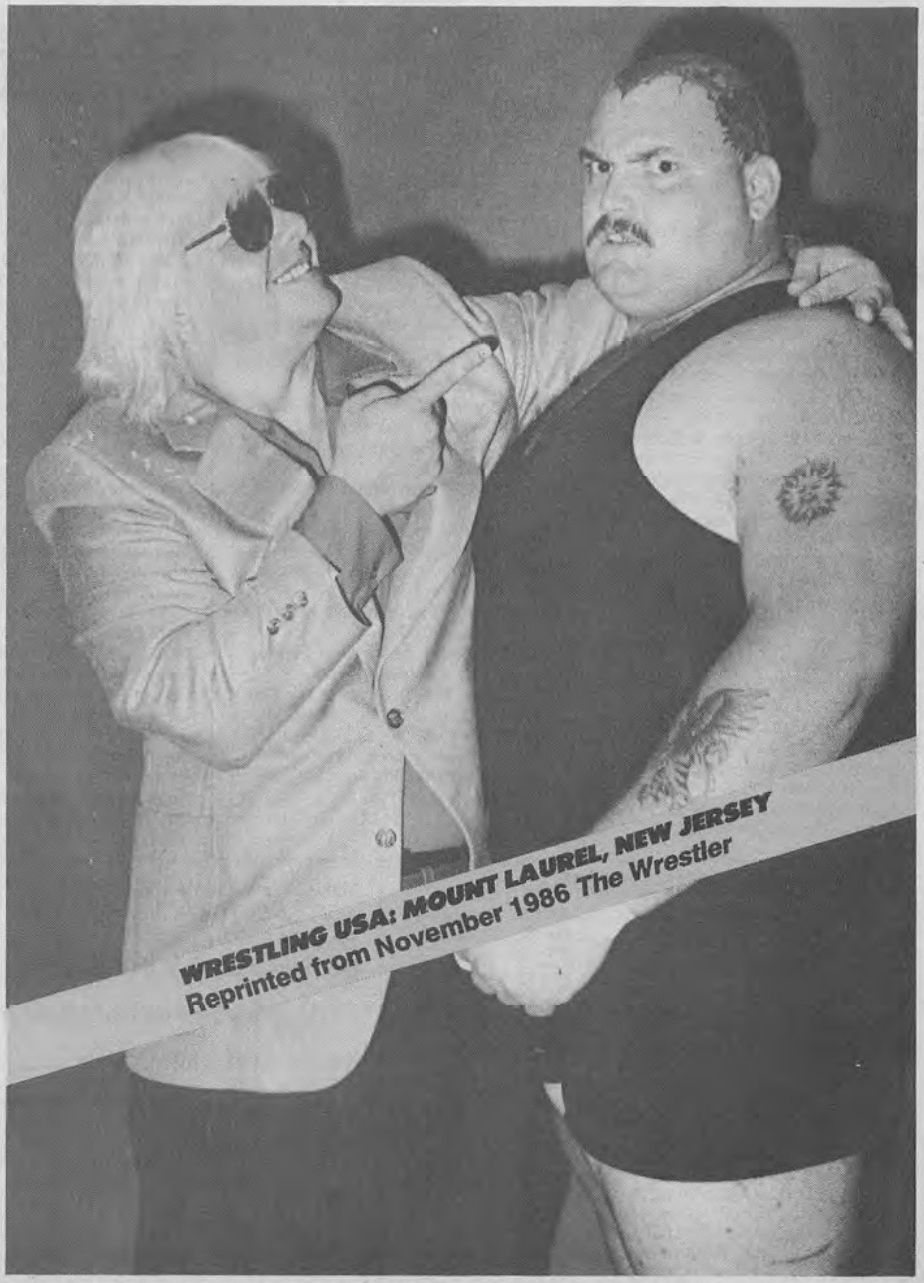
AT 6'3", 390 POUNDS, the fearsome 19-year-old was physically suited for a number of jobs. But not the kind of man who could get into the lifestyle of a 9-to-5'er, the young man accepted the type of job that wouldn't make too many mothers proud: bounty hunter. His assignment: Travel to Mexico and track down a young woman who had been charged with murder, skipped bail, and fled the country.

When the young man arrived in Mexico, he followed a couple of leads, busted a few heads, and finally tracked down the accused murderer in a small town about 150 miles south of the U.S. border. The bounty hunter, however, had to be careful. The woman was armed and dangerous, and had already killed a man. Certainly, she wouldn't stop short of wasting a bounty hunter.

The entire matter was complicated further when it was discovered that the fugitive was the girlfriend of the local mayor. And down in Mexico, where justice is discretionary and outsiders just don't mess with the law, the girl appeared to be in safe hands.

The bounty hunter, however, had two things on his side: He was extraordinarily strong and not too smart. That second factor was the most important, because only a fool would have continued on with the mission. Rather than risk a payday, the bounty hunter finally figured out a way to

(Continued on page 20)



Larry Sharpe has trained a potential major force in pro wrestling by the name of Bam Bam Bigelow. Bigelow, who has atypical agility for a man of his proportions, is a former bounty hunter with his sights set on Jerry Lawler.

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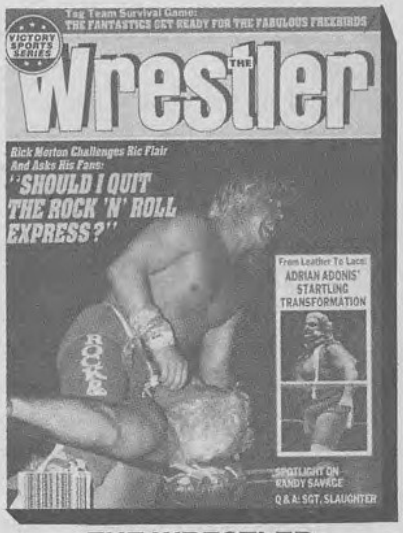

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INTRODUCING

(Continued from page 18)

abduct the girl, and in the middle of the night he grabbed her and sped off toward the border.

Unfortunately for the bounty hunter, the mayor was supposed to rendezvous with the girl that night, and on his way to her room, he saw the bounty hunter driving off. Immediately, he summoned every police car under his command and quickly set up roadblocks along all the outlying roads.

But the brave bounty hunter crashed through two roadblocks. At the second roadblock, however, the police opened fire and struck the murderer in the head, killing her instantly. The bounty hunter drove five miles farther and then ditched the car and took off on foot. Finally, after spending two days as a fugitive, he was captured and put in jail.

Word of the bounty hunter's plight filtered back to the United States government and the situation was investigated. Six months later, officials from both governments arranged a deal and the bounty hunter was released from prison. The Mexican goverment warned, however, that if he ever returned, he would be arrested on sight. Naturally, this put an end to the young man's career as a bounty hunter.

But, as previously stated, a 6'3", 390-pound man is physically suited for a number of jobs.

Bounty hunter is one.

Professional wrestler is another.

Introducing: Bam Bam Bigelow.

***

So, as it went, the ex-bounty hunter was sitting in a Bowery bar when a friendly, half-drunk stranger told him that he looked like a professional wrestler. Bigelow laughed, but the stranger went on and told him all about a professional wrestling school located outside of Mount Laurel, New Jersey, and said that he should drop by. "Tell 'em Sam sent ya," said the stranger, who then got up from his bar stool and disappeared into the night.

When Bigelow walked into "The Monster Factory" the following day, he didn't even have a chance to tell the man at the front desk that Sam had sent him. The clerk grabbed Bigelow and dragged him into the main office, where Larry Sharpe was sitting at a desk, talking on the telephone. When Sharpe looked at Bigelow, he dropped the phone, stood up, and said, "Don't say another word. I'm willing to train you for free if you'll let me manage you as a pro." Naturally, Bigelow was not in a position to reject such an offer.

Bigelow has made short work of preliminary wrestlers such as David Haskins as he has moved up the ranks in the Mid-Southern region. Men like Jerry Lawler should be just as easy for him, according to Sharpe.

"He was a natural," said Sharpe. "Really, he had everything I look for in a wrestler: size, strength, and that look in his eye that said that he was hungry. Then we tested him for speed and I couldn't believe my eyes. This huge guy ran the 100-yard dash in 11 seconds. I know some guys half his size who can't do that."

Bigelow developed quickly and before long could beat any man in the school. On August 23, 1985, Bigelow made his professional debut at New York's famous Studio 54, where he pinned four opponents in only 12 minutes.

***

It's hard to miss Bam Bam Bigelow. After all, how many wrestlers have a tatoo of a fireball covering their bald head? And how many wrestlers carry around a can of red spray paint to use on their beaten opponents ("It's just to show that they're a bunch of rednecks," says Sharpe)?

Bigelow is amazingly versatile. His big move is a dive off the top ropes called the "nuclear splash." He also has a surprising array of aerial maneuvers for a man of his size and can devastate an opponent with a series of dropkicks. Currently, Bigelow is wrestling in the Mid-Southern area and feuding with Jerry Lawler ("Just the kind of guy Bam Bam would go after in his bounty hunting days," insists Sharpe, with no further explanation).

Lawler might be messing with the wrong person. Bam Bam Bigelow is a man who made a living risking his life and managed to take on an entire police force. After spending six months in jail, he learned how to deal with the scum of the earth.

Wrestling is Bam Bam Bigelow's idea of a desk job. □

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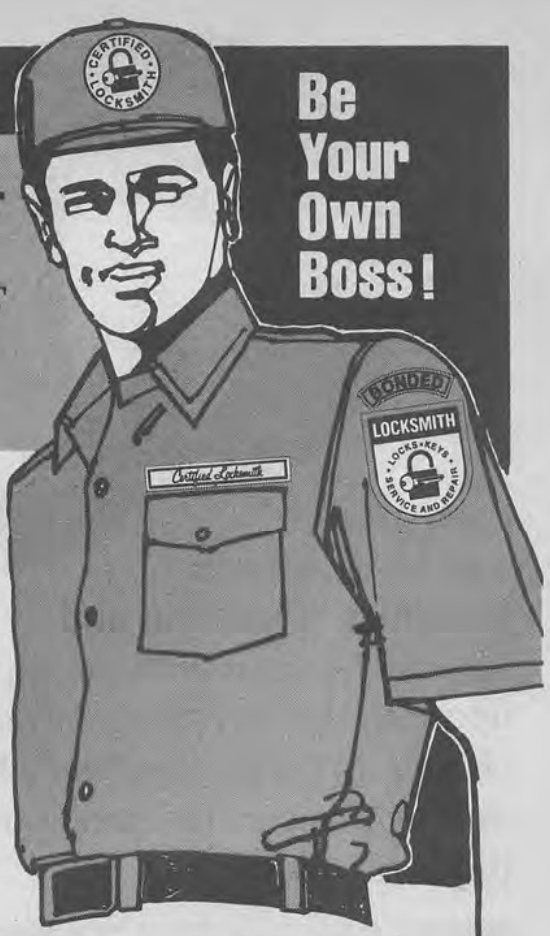

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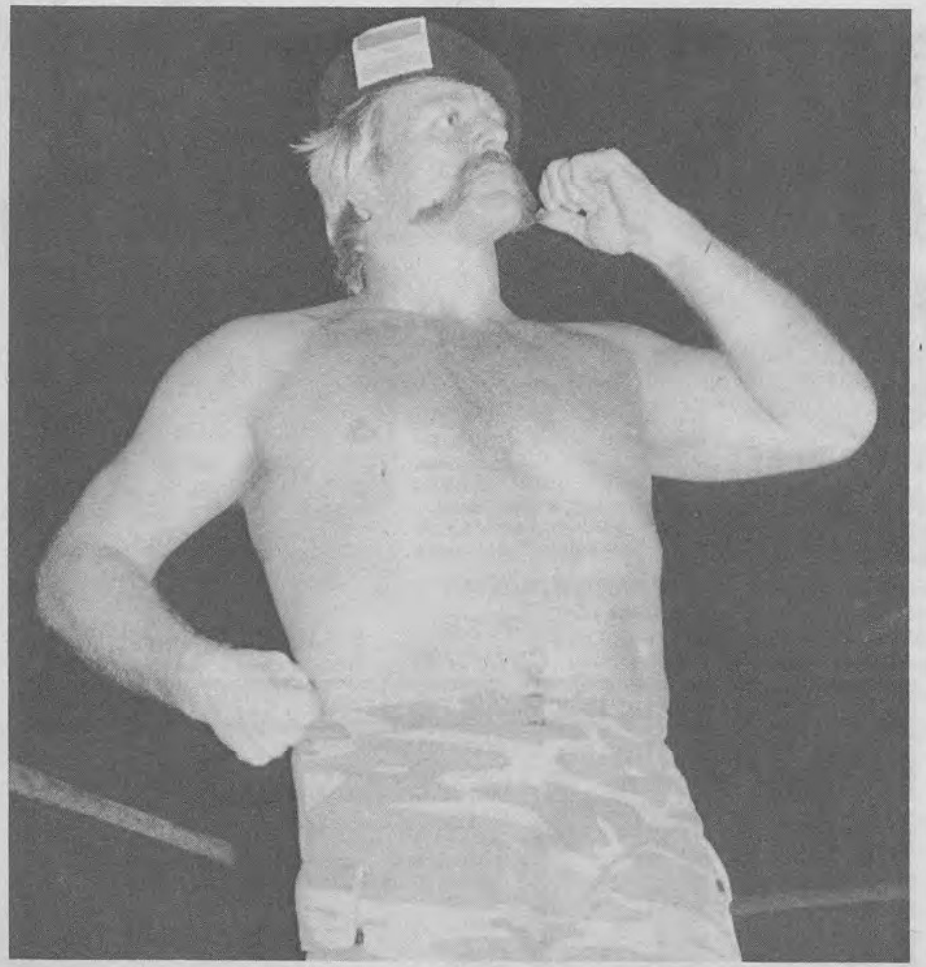
WRESTLING USA: PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA
Reprinted from January 1987 The Wrestler

Q&A

Each month, *The Wrestler* will present a "Question and Answer" forum with an important figure in the wrestling world. It is your chance to meet wrestling's biggest stars as they answer the questions uppermost in the fans' minds



In just a short time in the AWA, Col. DeBeers has gotten himself embroiled in several controversies. Among other things, he refuses to wrestle non-whites (Jimmy Snuka in particular) and accuses Scott Hall of taking steroids.

Q: The last time we spoke, Colonel, it was for an article ["On The Road"] in last month's *Inside Wrestling*.

A: I remember. And you puked forth the usual pro-black slogans and euphemisms that have served to drive this great nation down the road of damnation. What kind of filth do you want to discuss now?

Q: Now wait a second! First of all—all right, look, let's just try and keep this on a professional level if we can.

A: I can if you can.

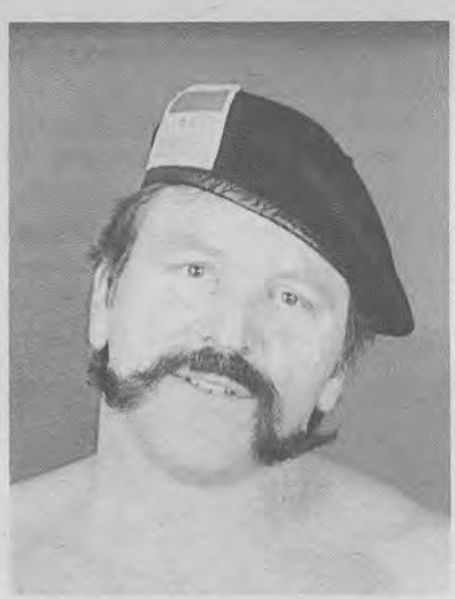
Q: I want to ask you about two men in the AWA in particular, Jimmy Snuka and Scott Hall.

A: Let me tell you about Jimmy Snuka and Scott Hall. First of all, Jimmy Snuka should not be allowed to compete in the same federation as me. He should not be allowed to wrestle me, he should not be allowed to wrestle other proud men in the area.

Q: By "proud men" you mean "white men," right?

A: I mean men who deserve the right of wrestling under the AWA banner, period.

Q: But during matches, certain tag team matches for example, you've refused to lock up in tests of strength with Snuka. What are you afraid of?



COL. DeBEERS

FOREIGN WRESTLERS SEEM to invite a particular type of nickname: Kamala is called "The Ugandan Headhunter," Abdullah the Butcher is known as "The Sudanese Madman," and Nikita Koloff has been dubbed "The Russian Nightmare."

To this list of insidious sobriquets add one more: Col. DeBeers, "The South African Bigot."

DeBeers isn't widely known by that nickname—yet—but the sentiment is certainly there. A staunch supporter of apartheid, the South African doctrine of racial segregation, DeBeers is vocal in his disgust for non-whites in general, and Jimmy Snuka in particular. He has also openly criticized Scott Hall, who he claims ought to undergo urinalysis prior to each match; DeBeers claims that Hall uses steroids as part of his training regimen.

Associate Editor Craig Peters recently spoke with DeBeers following an AWA card in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. In discussing Snuka and Hall, DeBeers reveals a great deal about his own views of wrestling and the world in general.

A: It's not a question of fear, it's a question of drawing lines where and when they have to be drawn. Give them an inch and before you know it the entire neighborhood is ruined, don't you understand?

Q: I understand that you're without question the most bigoted man I've ever met in my entire life.

A: Those who are shortsighted and closed-minded might call it bigotry.

Q: But you're . . .

A: Shut your black mouth! You and your kind . . .

Q: What do you mean my kind?

A: . . . are always talking about free speech and the First Amendment and civil rights and so forth. What about *my* civil rights? Don't I have the right to choose who I want to wrestle and where I want to wrestle and when? Why should I be forced to wrestle Jimmy Snuka when there are plenty of other opponents I should be spending my time with?

Q: I'm not saying you should or shouldn't be forced to wrestle Snuka, I'm just asking you why you refuse to.

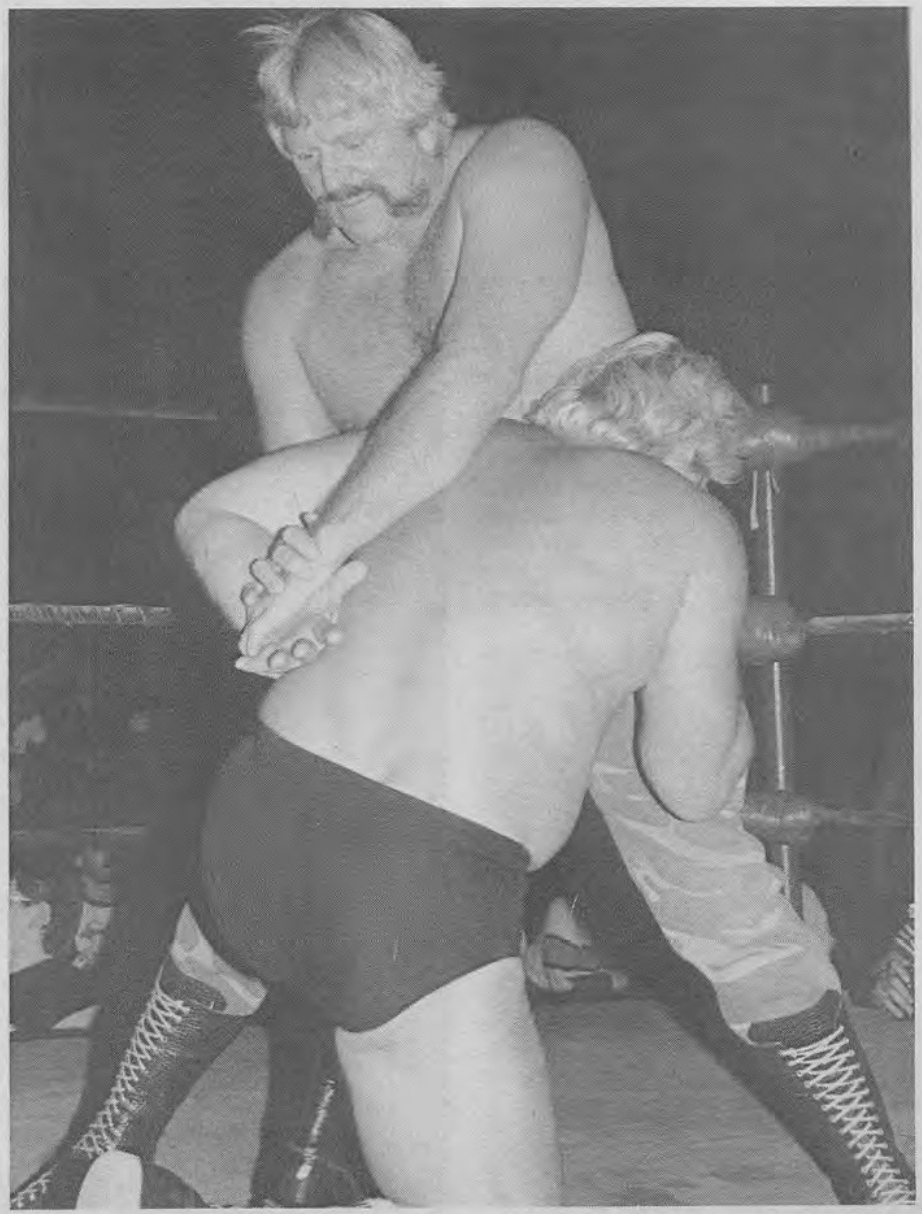
A: Because he's not worthy. Let's leave it at that.

Q: But you . . .

A: Now you wanted to know something about Scott Hall, right?

Q: Yes, but there was . . .

A: Let me tell you about Scott Hall.



The self-proclaimed South African mercenary locks up with Nick Bockwinkel. His racist beliefs aside, DeBeers is a top contender for Bockwinkel's AWA World championship.

First and foremost, the man is a drug addict.

Q: Oh, come on, you can't be serious! I know Scott pretty well, and he would . . .

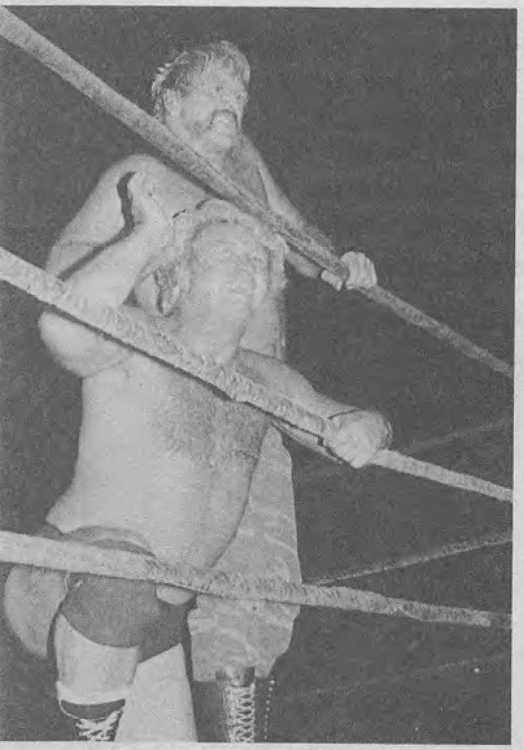
A: Use your common sense! Look at the man! There is no way that any natural human can obtain a physique like that without chemical additives. Have you ever heard of steroids?

Q: Of course. My wife is a nurse, I know all about . . .

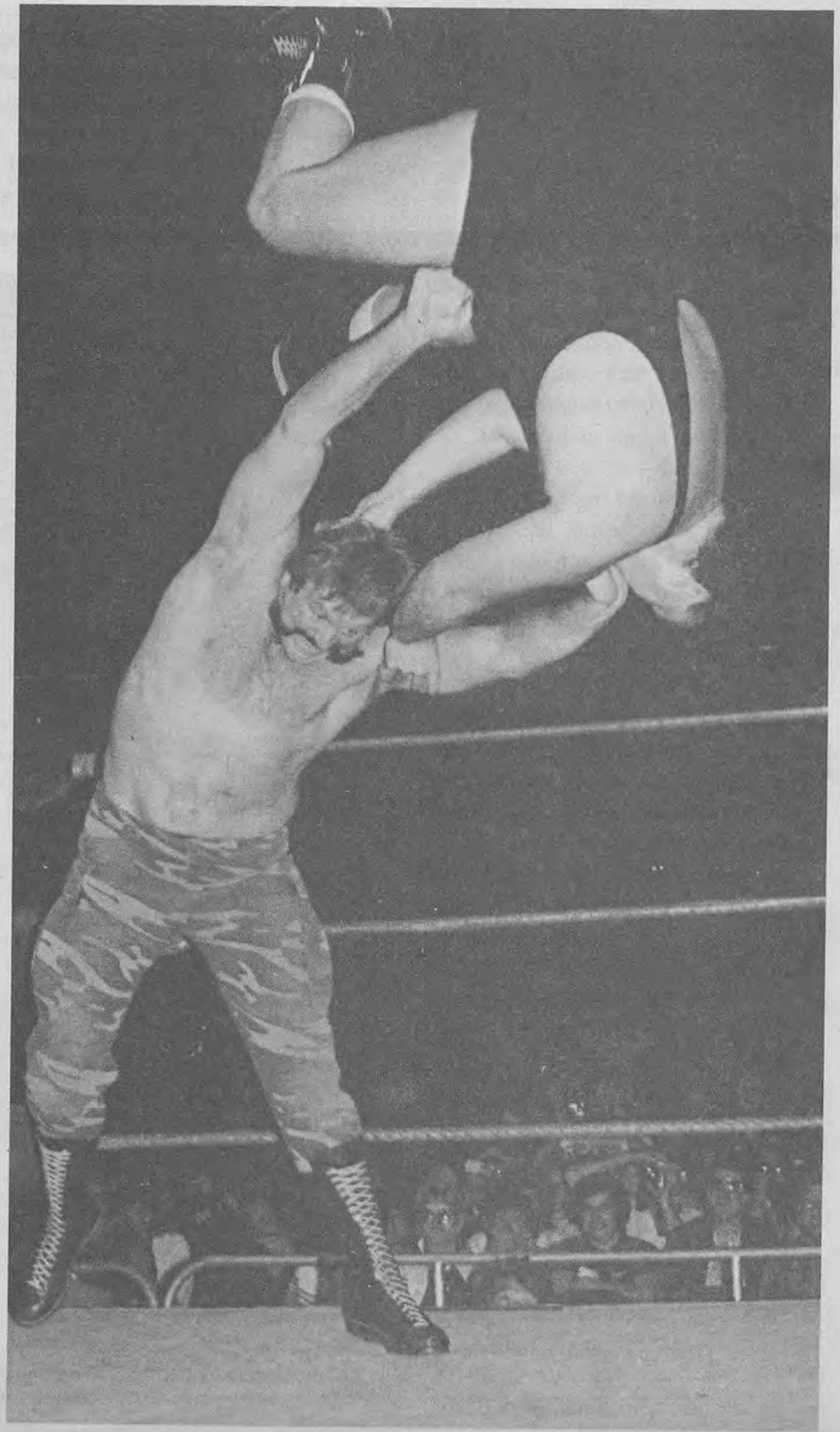
A: Well, if you know anything, you know that Scott Hall ought to be subjected to a urinalysis prior to each and every match. The man is a drug addict, and . . .

Q: Now wait a second. First of all, steroids aren't a drug *per se,* and second of all, labeling Hall as a drug addict could subject you to a charge of slander.

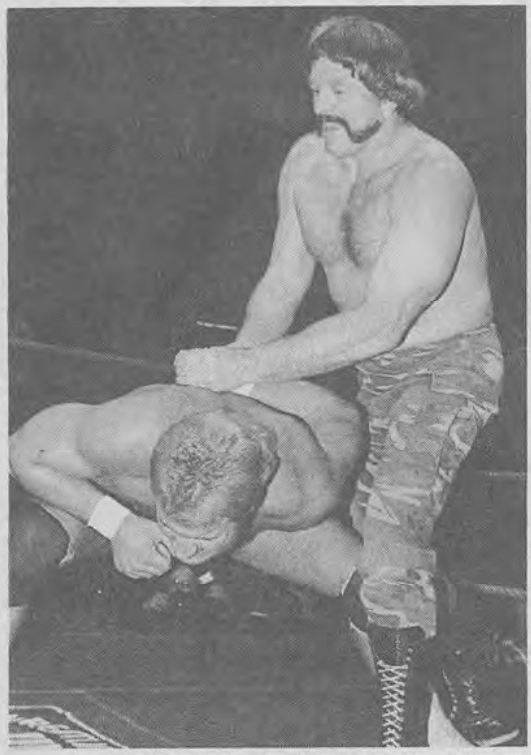
A: Look in the dictionary, idiot! Drug—it's right there. A drug is any chemical substance normally used in medicine. Just look in your dictionary. I know all about steroids, too. And I know that Scott Hall uses them. Period. I've taken



DeBeers first catches Bockwinkel against the ropes (above), then uses them to choke the champion (below). The "Good Colonel" displays his strength (right). For how much longer will the AWA continue to allow DeBeers to spew forth his bigoted opinions?



my case to the AWA board, but like yourself, they're all a bunch of white trash who stick together and protect each other, so I don't have too many hopes of action. That's why I have to take action myself, and that answers your earlier question about Snuka—sometimes, you just have to take action yourself, because others are too cowardly to do so. Now, I haven't got all night. Any intelligent questions, or else get the hell out of here.



Curt Hennig is doubled over by DeBeers' hammerlock. Hennig and Scott Hall lost the AWA World tag team title partly because of the South African's interference.

Q: Just one more: How do you feel about the AWA placing a disclaimer on its television programs about your views being your own and that they are not associated with your views at all?

A: Again, cowardice. My opinions are on the cutting edge of world developments. Those who are too cowardly or ignorant to agree with me shall, when the time comes, find themselves overwhelmed by the events of history. It's that simple.

Q: Yeah, like your . . .

A: What was that?!?

Q: Nothing, nothing. I'm gone.

A: Good. Get out of here. White trash. □

Wrestling 87

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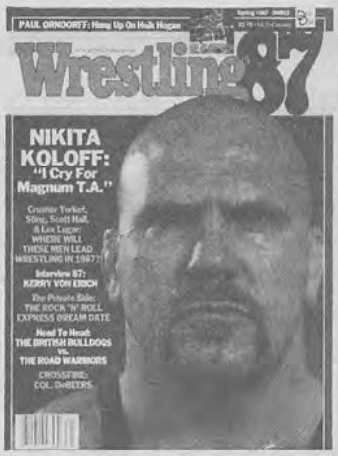

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PRESS CONFERENCE JIMMY SNUKA

WRESTLING USA: CHICAGO, ILLINOIS
Reprinted from January 1987 Pro Wrestling Illustrated

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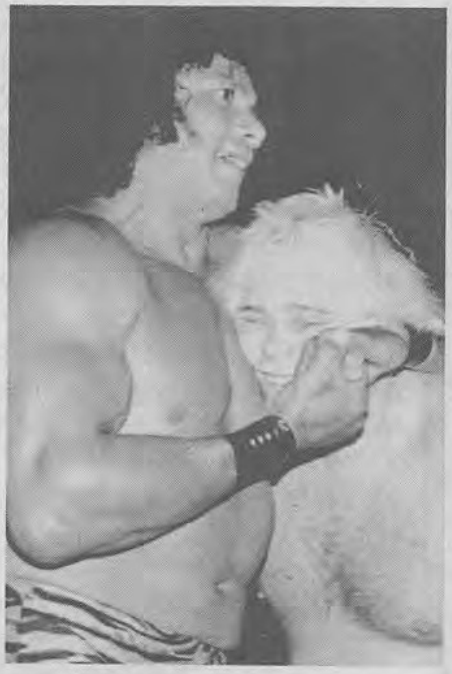
JIMMY SNUKA HAS been through the wringer during his controversial wrestling career. He started out as a fan favorite in the Pacific Northwest but in the late 1970s became one of the most hated men in the Mid-Atlantic region. When Snuka came to the WWF in 1982 under the management of Capt. Lou Albano, he retained his rulebreaking ways and engaged in a series of classic matches with WWF World champion Bob Backlund. It was in one of those bouts at Madison Square Garden when Snuka made wrestling history with his now-famous "superfly" off the top of a steel cage.

But things have changed since those unstable days. Snuka took on Buddy Rogers as his manager, began an incredible feud with Roddy Piper, and suddenly became one of the most loved wrestlers in the country. He teamed with his cousin, The Tonga Kid, to take on Piper and Co., and aligned himself with Hulk Hogan.

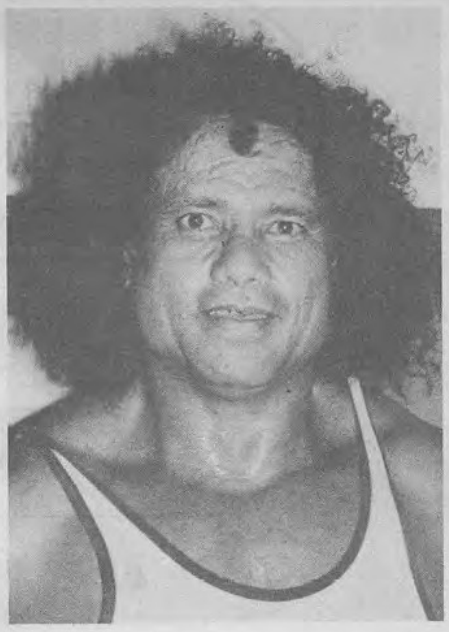
The Tonga Kid left the WWF shortly thereafter, however, and Snuka followed suit. The native Fijian took a few months off before resurfacing in Hawaii and then in California. There was some talk that Snuka had had enough of big-time wrestling, with its pressures and hassles, and opted for the smaller promotions and their relative serenity.



Snuka couldn't resist the spotlight, however, and on April 20 made his AWA debut at WrestleRock '86, teaming with Greg Gagne to defeat Nord the Barbarian and Bruiser Brody in a cage match.

It was as if he had never left the spotlight. Snuka was immediately adopted by the AWA fans and continued his high flying style, even though he was a few pounds away from top form. He is currently at odds with Col. DeBeers and going after Buddy Rose and Doug Somers' AWA World tag team title, but more than anything he wants a shot at Nick Bockwinkel's AWA World title.

Editor-in-Chief Peter King, Senior Editor Bill Apter, and Managing Editor Stu Saks recently traveled to Chicago, where they spoke with Snuka at a most unusual place—the friendly confines of Wrigley Field, home of the Chicago Cubs (Snuka loves baseball)—where he spoke about the twists and turns his career has taken and the direction it is now headed.



"Jimmy Snuka is a professional wrestler; it is in his blood. To have done something else would have been to leave a part of myself behind, and that is not good for the soul."

STU SAKS: I haven't been to a baseball game all year and here I am in Wrigley watching the Cubs play the Houston Astros. Anybody have a Mets score?

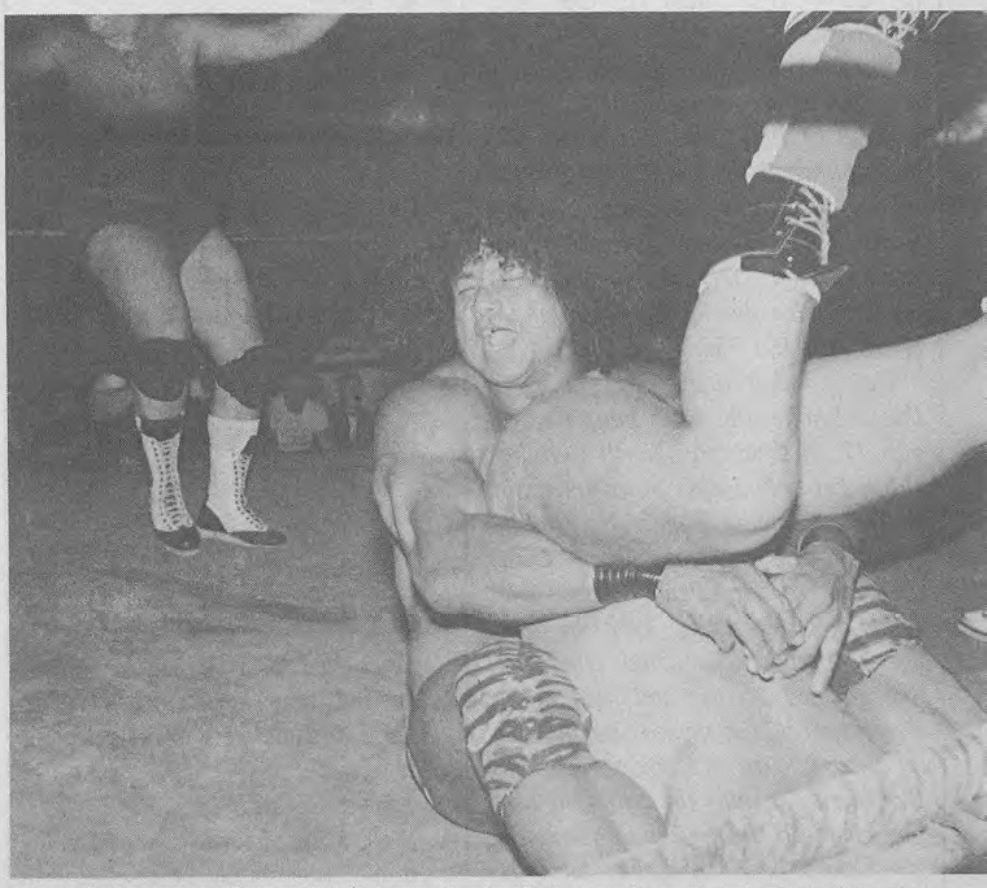
PETER KING: This really is strange. Now I'll have to go to Shea when we get back just so I don't feel guilty about going to a Cubs game. To tell you the truth, Jimmy, I was shocked when you said that you wanted to conduct the interview here. I never knew that you were a baseball fan.

JIMMY SNUKA: Well, Peter, what else is a Polynesian boy supposed to be? Cricket is a popular sport in my country, and baseball is similar, yet quicker and far more exciting.

BILL APTER: I can't imagine you playing cricket.

SNUKA: **No, brother Bill, I enjoy watching all sports, but my body is more suited to the ring than anywhere else. My mind desires the thrill that comes from individual competition, one man against another. Baseball or cricket do not provide that, although I**

(Continued on page 68)



Jimmy Snuka weakens Playboy Buddy Rose with a headlock (opposite page) and, minutes later, pins Rose's partner, Doug Somers, to win the match (above). Snuka's return to full-time action in the AWA has pleased fans all across the country.

HOTSEAT

WRESTLING USA: CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA
Reprinted from December 1986 Inside Wrestling

BABY DOLL:

"DUSTY RHODES IS A LOSER!"

THERE'S AN OLD Irish proverb that says: "The wind is not swifter than a woman's choice between two men." There may be more Irish blood in Baby Doll than anyone ever suspected.

Baby Doll began her career as a bodyguard for Gino Hernandez in the summer of 1984. Less than six months later, attracted by several gifts (including an automobile), she left Gino and joined Tully Blanchard. About a year later, she left Tully and joined Dusty Rhodes. Now she has left Dusty and is allied with Ric Flair.

Here's what happened during a Dusty Rhodes-Ric Flair bout on August 17, in Charlotte, North Carolina: When Dusty had Flair down for a pin, Baby Doll placed Flair's foot on the rope, forcing a break. When Dusty tried to reverse Flair's figure-four, Baby Doll helped Flair keep the leverage he needed to maintain the hold. She grabbed a chair and tried hitting Dusty with it, but missed. Seconds later, though, Arn Anderson and Tully Blanchard ran into the ring and used the chair to beat Rhodes senseless. Now she's been appearing on interviews with Flair, and seems to be firmly allied with The Four Horsemen.

Associate Editor Craig Peters, who interviewed Baby Doll on the "Hotseat" for the August 1985 issue of ***Inside Wrestling****, spoke with her regarding these most recent developments in her career.*

Q: The last time we spoke for *Inside Wrestling*, Baby Doll, you were with Tully Blanchard. In the time since then . . .

A: In the time since then, I have learned some very serious lessons about life.

Q: And those are?

A: Well, a lot of those lessons I really don't feel I should be discussing in a national magazine. But I can tell you that I learned a few things about Dusty Rhodes.

"I'm not a stupid airhead blonde, and I have a certain set of personal standards . . . I thought Dusty was the kind of man who could get me what I want."

Q: For example?

A: For example, Dusty Rhodes is a loser, plain and simple. Look, I'm not a stupid airhead blonde, and I have a certain set of personal standards that I won't go into in depth here, but hey—I thought Dusty was the kind of a man who could give me what I want.

Q: And what is that?

A: What everyone wants. Money. Fame. Good times. Success. In wrestling, you can add championship gold to that list.

Q: So you left Dusty because he lost the NWA World title back to Ric Flair?

A: No, not just because of that. But since you brought it up, I have a few things I want to say on that subject. First of all, I want you to go back over the past 12 months and count up the number of title shots Dusty has had against Flair. You need a damn computer to add them all up. And how many times, again and again, did Dusty have to try to defeat Ric? And how many times did he fail?

Q: True, but he finally did . . .

A: Hey—if anybody else had the kinds of chances at Flair that Dusty had, he would have had the

"Dusty Rhodes is a loser. He needed so many tries to win the belt, and then when he finally wins it, he lets it slip through his fat little fingers."

Baby Doll stood behind her man Dusty Rhodes until she could no longer use him. After Dusty dropped the NWA World title to Ric Flair, she dropped him.

belt in a month instead of 12. I mean, really, just look at the record. And then when he finally *does* defeat Flair, how many days does he hold the title?

Q: I believe it was . . .

A: Don't even tell me. I know what it was. It makes me sick. And if any wrestling fan has any kind of sense at all, he or she will realize what I did, and that is that Dusty Rhodes is a loser. He needed so many tries to win the belt, and then when he finally has it, he lets it slip through his fat little fingers.

Q: And that's what made you leave him?

A: Well, I don't like to be associated with losers.

Q: Over the past few months, you've said some terribly nasty things about Tully Blanchard and Ric Flair. Now, you were with Tully some months ago, and I wonder whether . . .

A: You wonder what our relationship is now?

Q: Well, you seem to be with Flair now, and I wonder whether . . .

A: I'm with nobody but myself. Slick Ric is not the kind of a man who is going to suffocate me, the way Dusty was. Ric can have any woman in the world he wants. He's not going to keep me on a leash. I'm an independent woman, I demand respect and room to breathe. And Ric will give me respect and room.

Q: How about Tully?

A: Well, I'm willing to give Tully another chance here. I think he's grown up a bit since we were together last, and I think he's ready to give me the respect I deserve.

Q: Does your new attitude toward Dusty and Flair mean any changes in your attitude toward Jim Cornette?

A: Absolutely not. I'd still slug that wimp if I saw him face to face.

Q: In your last "Hotseat" interview, you said, and I quote, "I don't conform to anyone's ideas of me except my own. I am what I want to be, and the hell with anyone who doesn't accept me for what I am." Comment?

A: Well, that's as true today as it ever was, isn't it?

Q: Fair enough. I'd like to . . .

A: One other thing about that quote, now that I think about it. See, Dusty did not accept me for what I am. He tried to change me in subtle ways. I said it then and I'll say it again now: The hell with anyone who doesn't accept me for what I am. The hell with Dusty.

Q: A quick question about the man you've been accompanying to the ring.

A: The Warlord. He's quite an awesome physical specimen, isn't he?

Q: Very much like another Road Warrior. What are your plans for him?

A: I'm going to work with him, help train him, and bring him along slowly in the sport. I think if he doesn't take matches beyond his experience and skills, he can eventually become one of the all-time greats of the sport.

Debris flies toward Ric Flair and Baby Doll as they are interviewed by Bob Caudle (above). While Baby Doll has pledged her "loyalty" to Flair, she says that that doesn't change anything about the way she feels about Jim Cornette, whom she pounds during The Great American Bash (below).

"Dusty did not accept me for what I am. He tried to change me in subtle ways. The hell with anyone who doesn't accept me for what I am. The hell with Dusty."

Q: Are there any plans to have Flair and Tully and the Andersons work on training him?

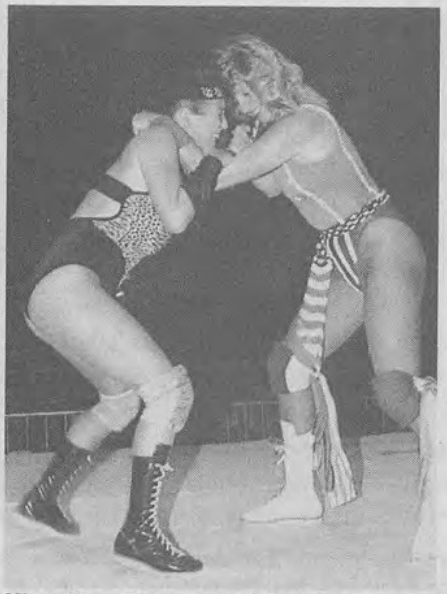
A: Well, that would be the best training for a rookie, wouldn't it?

Q: One more question, Baby Doll: How deep does the hatred between you and Dusty run?

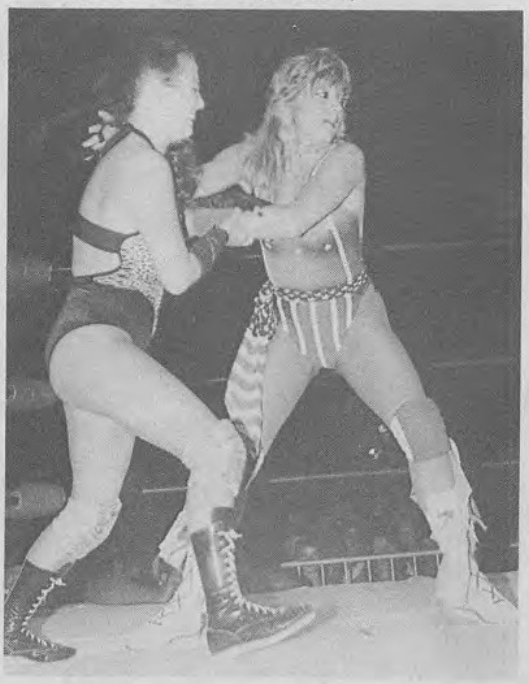
A: I wouldn't call it hatred, Craig. I'd call it . . . I guess *pity* is the best word. I pity the man. He's so much less than he claims to be, than he thinks he is. It's really kind of pathetic when you put any kind of real thought into it. I put thought into it, and that's why I am where I am today. As for Dusty—he should do us all a favor and retire tomorrow. □

MISTY BLUE SIMMES:

WRESTLING USA: GLENS FALLS, NEW YORK
Reprinted from January 1987 The Wrestler



Misty Blue Simmes (left) has been named the NWA's first United States women's wrestling champion, an honor of which she is rightfully proud. The champion locks up with Linda Dallas (above) and flings her challenger across the ring (below).



Can Misty Blue Simmes ignite women's wrestling with the same excitement and drama that characterized Wendi Richter's monumental success in the WWF? Misty has no doubts that she can—and she's well on her way already!

Photos by Eddie Cheslock & Bill Apter

CAN SHE SAVE WOMEN'S WRESTLING?

ALONG WITH THE usual complement of fan mail, hate mail, requests for autographs, unsolicited story submissions, and personal letters to the wrestlers, a recent day's mail delivery included the following press release from the NWA main office in Kansas City:

As of September 10, 1986, the National Wrestling Alliance will recognize the following newly formed championship: The National Wrestling Alliance United States Women's Wrestling Championship. The NWA U.S. Women's title will strive to present the very best in women's wrestling throughout the world.

In lieu of holding a tournament, which would prove time-consuming in light of other duties and obligations currently being handled by NWA officers and officials, a meeting of the NWA Board of Directors has decreed that the first U.S. Women's champion will be Misty Blue Simmes of Glens Falls, New York.

Working out on the Universal weight machine is one of the ways Simmes keeps fit. According to the NWA, this Glens Falls, New York, native will add freshness and excitement to women's wrestling and the sport in general.

Misty Blue Simmes has proven her capabilities in the past against a significant level of opposition, and it is firmly believed by the Board that she will succeed in attracting a wide variety of new women's wrestling talent to the NWA. She will be expected to defend her title at least once every 30 days against the top-rated women's contender.

The announcement was, in a manner of speaking, a bolt out of the blue. Few experts within the wrestling community had even suspected that the NWA was considering placing its considerable weight behind the declaration of a women's champion and the promotion of women's wrestling. Fewer still, had they known of the NWA's plans, would have suspected that Misty Blue Simmes would become the organization's centerpiece.

"The wrestling world in general, and the NWA in particular, is always on the lookout for new, fresh talent," said NWA President Bob Geigel. "There was a freshness about Misty Blue that the Board hasn't seen in years. Her skill level is considerable, judging from the dozens of match tapes that I've seen, and she should prove to be an exciting commodity to the NWA and to all of professional wrestling."

Geigel is right. There *is* a freshness to Misty Blue that few women wrestlers have displayed in recent years. Possessing a model's body and a movie star's charismatic looks, Misty is a new commodity to most wrestling fans. It is likely that even the closest followers of the mat sport have not seen her in action, but when they do they'll no doubt be quite impressed. A graduate of Killer Kowalski's wrestling school, Misty Blue has been compares favorably in swiftness and agility to such athletes as Rick Morton, Terry Taylor, Brian Adidas, and Tito Santana.

"I've paid pretty close attention to women's wrestling over the past 10 or 15 years," Misty Blue told *The Wrestler,* "and frankly, there isn't much about women's wrestling to become excited about. The Fabulous Moolah has dominated women's wrestling to the point of suffocation. She's fat, out of shape, two or three decades past her prime, and, quite frankly, an embarrassment to me. When I'm at a party, and people ask me what I do, and I tell them I'm a wrestler, they're likely to say, 'Oh, you mean like Moolah?' That's an insult to me. A real insult.

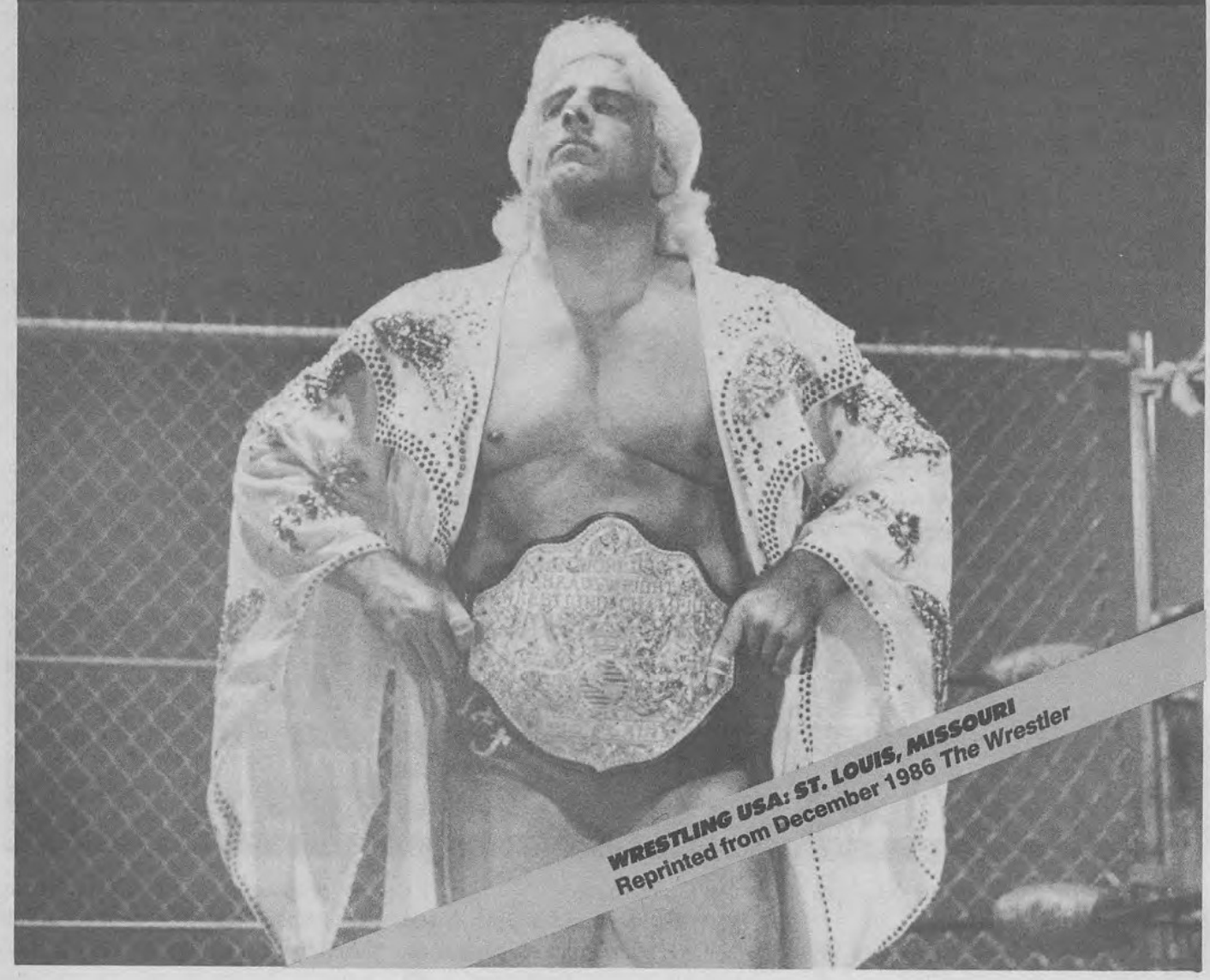
"About the only thing that's been exciting about women's wrestling in recent years has been the rise of Wendi Richter," Misty continued. "But even then, when you sit down and examine the phenomenon, Wendi's popularity came about primarily because of the involvement of [rock star] Cyndi Lauper. Which is not to say that Wendi isn't a good wrestler; she's a fine athlete. But the glitz is what sold her to the fans, not the pure wrestling skills.

"That's why I'm so happy to be representing the NWA," Misty said. "The NWA isn't afraid to let an individual have their own personal style, but they don't promote style over substance. I'm a wrestler, first and foremost, and I'm going to be given the opportunity to develop and display my *wrestling* skills, not my rock 'n' roll skills or my wardrobe and makeup skills."

Misty's eyes light up when she talks about her future in the NWA, and her pride in being named the first U.S.

(Continued on page 66)

Ric Flair's Fourth NWA Title Reign:

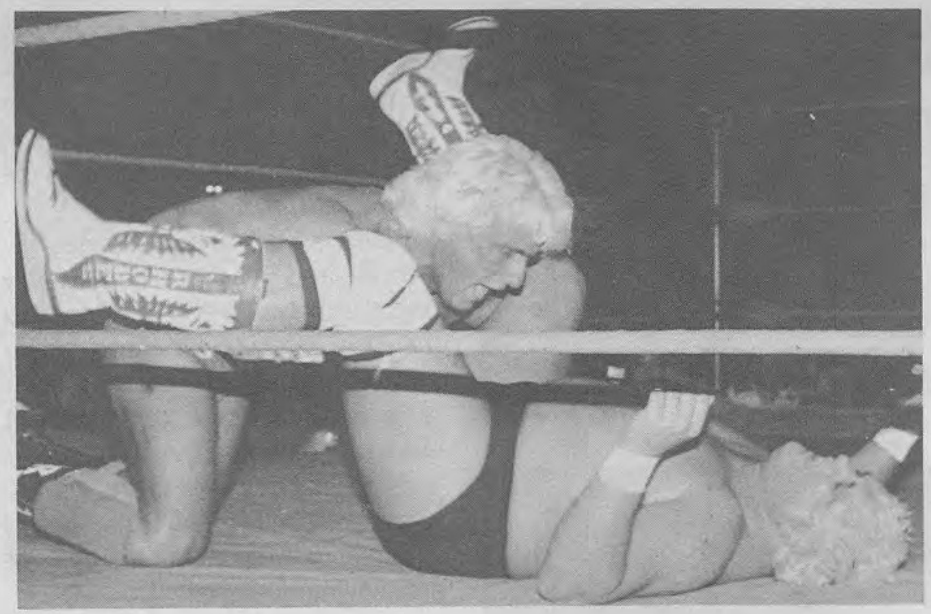


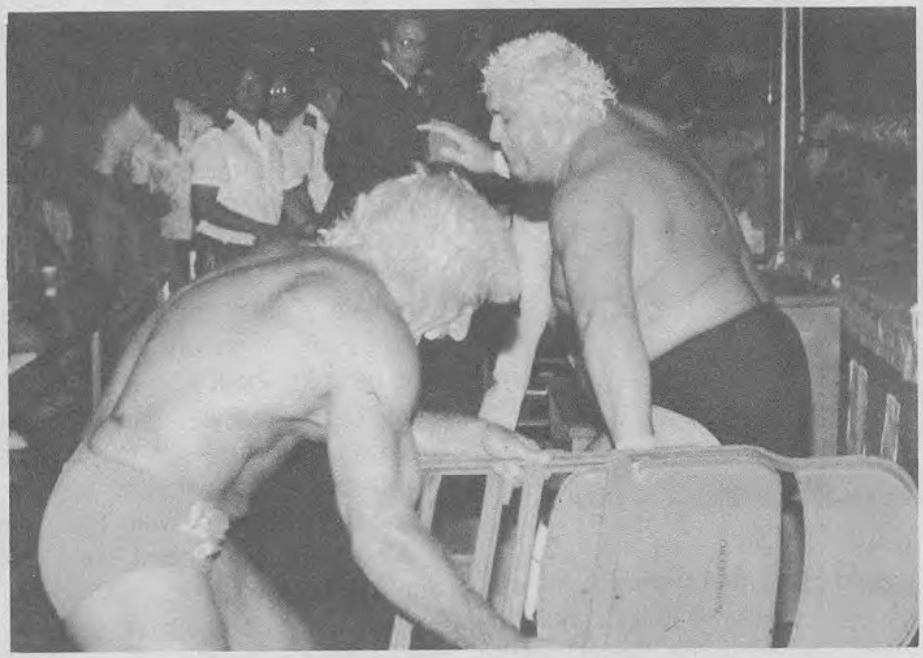
LAST CHANCE TO QUIET THE CRITICS!

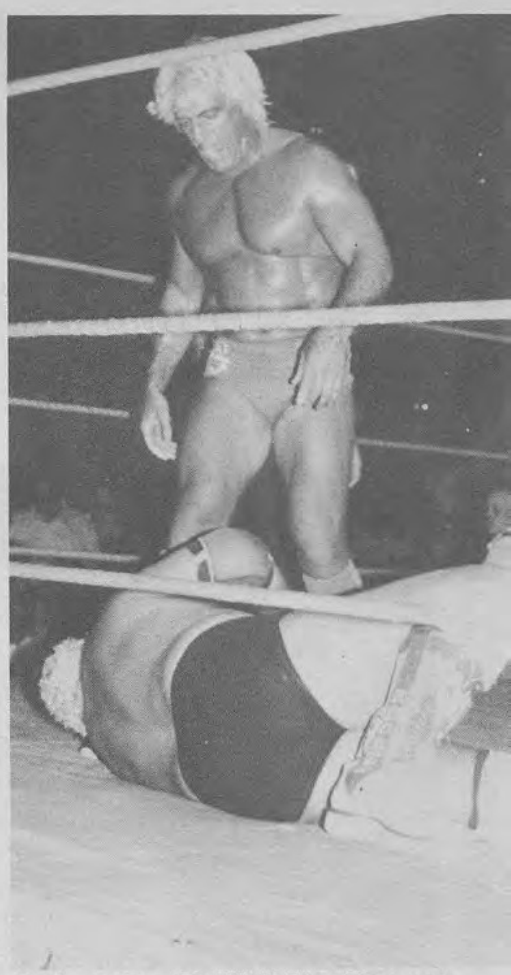
PROFESSIONAL WRESTLING IS a sport of change. Few things ever remain the same for a long period of time. Wrestlers switch from one area to another, rulebreakers become fan favorites, fan favorites become rulebreakers, titles change, challengers change. The incredible demands of the sport make stagnation the road to damnation.

Take the NWA's top 10 from the February 1982 issue of *The Wrestler.* Jerry Brisco has retired, Ted DiBiase is in the UWF, Jack Brisco retired, Harley Race is in the WWF, Dusty Rhodes has stayed put, but Ken Patera (imprisoned), The Spoiler (Asia), Roddy Piper (WWF), Tommy Rich (Continental and Deep South), and Sgt. Slaughter (AWA and NWF) are out of the elite group.

Then there's Ric Flair, whose name, in the February 1982 ratings, was at the top for the first of many, many times. Five years later, he's still there, still the best the NWA has to offer, the one thing you can *almost* always depend upon in professional wrestling.







On the surface, Ric Flair's title victory over Dusty Rhodes in St. Louis was viewed as a brilliant display of wrestling ingenuity. Flair has since been heavily criticized for his alleged involvement in Tully Blanchard and J.J. Dillon's attack on Dusty two days earlier that left "The American Dream's" leg nearly crippled. Dusty had trouble getting to his feet throughout the match (top left). Flair swings a chair at the bad knee (left) and challenges Dusty to get to his feet (above).

For the better part of the last five years, Ric Flair has been the NWA World champion, but still he is constantly criticized. Now, as The Nature Boy begins his fourth title reign, he has the chance to prove his greatness and silence the critics forever

Champions come and go, but Ric Flair is still number one. Consistency, the trademark of greatness.

Why is it that people continue to criticize Flair when he's been NWA World champion for all but six months during the past five years? Could it be that he hasn't faced high caliber competition? Nonsense! Flair has wrestled Briscos, Von Erichs, Russians, Rhodes, Race, Slaughter, Magnum T.A., Windhams, Duggan, Rude, Hansen, Backlund, Piper, Steamboat, etc. If there's a man in the sport worth wrestling, chances are that Flair has met the challenge.

"They've tried the rest, but they can't beat the best," boasted Flair in his best pizza-box talk after he began his fourth title reign by defeating Rhodes in St. Louis. "They talk all about this disqualification crap and then they bellyache about the officiating, but they fail to realize the most important part of this whole deal. They fail to recognize the greatness of The Nature Boy."

These are not the words of a paranoid champion, or a man beg-

Dusty experiences excruciating pain as Flair has him securely locked in his figure-four (right). Moments later, Flair, Dillon, and Blanchard would return to the dressing room to begin their celebration (below).

ging for attention and glory. Flair does not feel the criticism he constantly faces is justified. Each month, thousands of letters come into the editorial offices of *The Wrestler,* chastizing Flair for one thing or another.

"Ric Flair is paying off referee Tommy Young" or "Bob Geigel is playing favorites with Flair" or "Flair is always getting himself disqualified to hold on to his title" or "Flair is always relying on outside interference to win his matches."

So, from August 9, 1986, the start of his fourth title reign, to whenever it ends, all eyes of the wrestling world will be on the champion. Flair thought he had earned some respect with an outstanding, tactically brilliant victory over Rhodes in St. Louis. He slowly ground down and wore out the older and slower Rhodes until the champion could no longer defend himself. Unbeknownst to the fans at ringside was that Tully Blanchard and J.J. Dillon had severely injured Dusty's left leg two night earlier in Kansas City after a match between Rhodes and Flair. Although Flair will not accept responsibility for the attack, he cannot change what effect a tarnished title victory will have on his already questionable reputation.

Now, the proverbial ball is in Flair's proverbial court. He has the chance to prove, beyond a doubt, his greatness as a wrestler. The charges that Flair is paying off the referees, or that Geigel favors Flair, are unproven. But there can be little doubt that Flair often gets himself disqualified (an overwhemling majority of Flair's matches result in disqualification), and the other Horsemen, Tully Blanchard and the Andersons, always seem to be lurking in the runway.

Perhaps Flair underestimates his own abilities, because he certainly doesn't need help to win his matches. He has combined scientific techniques with brawling ability to become, arguably, the finest overall wrestler in the world. Flair does not need to rely on the controversial disqualification rule, which allows him to protect his title, or outside interference.

"I've had my ups and downs with Flair, but I've never doubted his raw ability," says Bob Roop, now retired from active competition and the newest panelist on *The Wrestler's* "X-Ray" panel. "The guy is as talented as any wrestler in the world. After all, he's been champion for God knows how long, but he's a little messed up. You know, Flair comes off as a big ego and he talks about how great he is, but if he really meant it, he wouldn't have to resort to some of his tactics. Flair wonders why he doesn't get respect. Well, how can you expect to get respect when you don't respect yourself?"

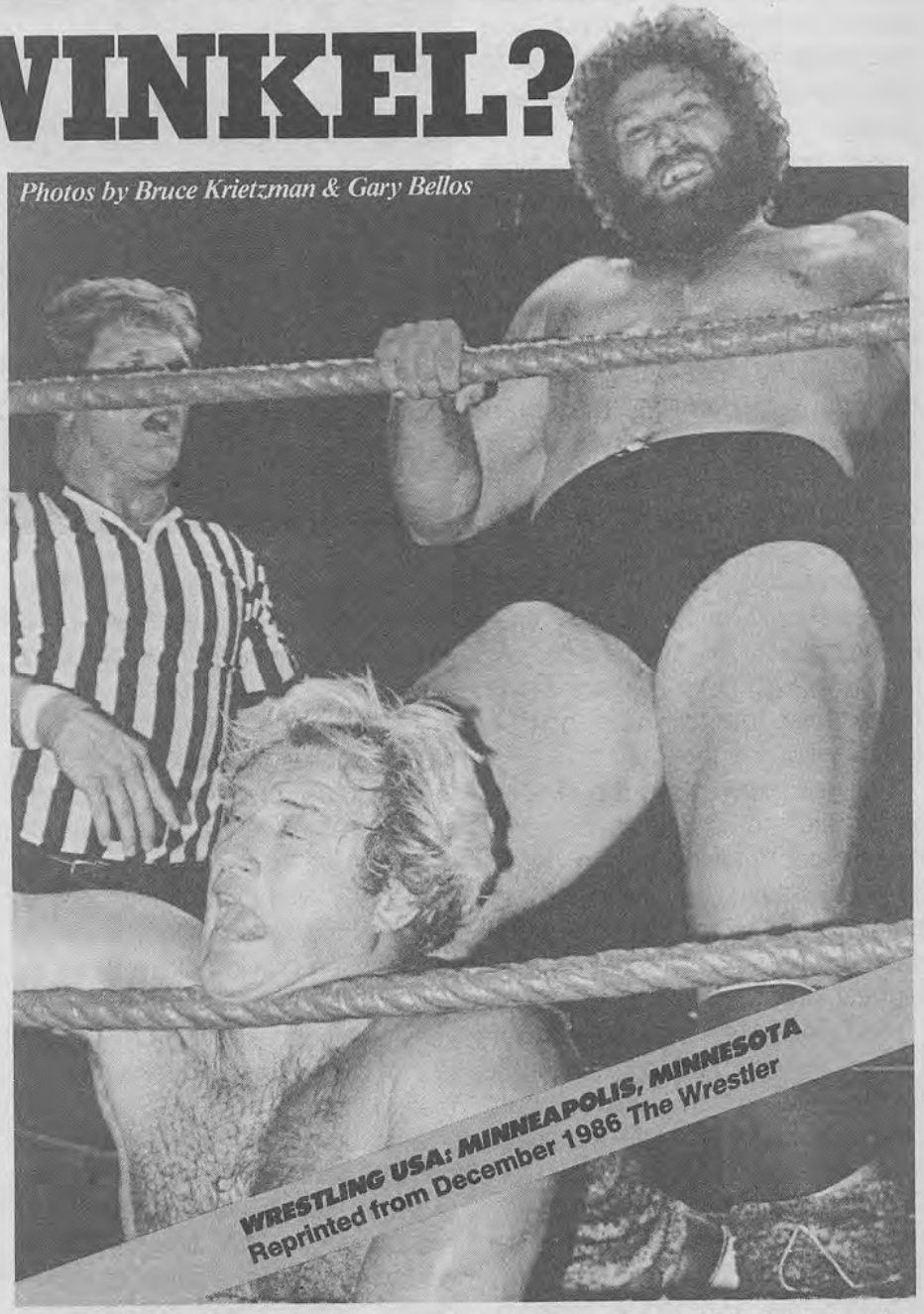
An interesting question, and one for which Flair claims to have an answer. "Roop is still a lot of hot air," the champion retorted. "He could never beat me either, so what the heck is he talking about? I wear my respect around my waist, that's all I know. I have the self-respect and confidence in my abilities to defend my title every night against any opponent. I know that there are some champions elsewhere who can't make that claim and I know that there are plenty of men who have lost their titles and turned to mush. Not the Nature Boy. This is my fourth title reign and I intend to silence the critics, once and for all. Ric Flair will make fools of you all."

The world is waiting. □

World Title Scandal!
WHY IS THE AWA PROTECTING NICK BOCKWINKEL?

A world champion is always the subject of intense scrutiny. Often there are accusations about that champion's claim to the title. But in the case of AWA World champion Nick Bockwinkel, those accusations may build to a cry of impeachment!

Photos by Bruce Krietzman & Gary Bellos



Nord the Barbarian is one of several wrestlers who have defeated AWA World champion Nick Bockwinkel in non-title matches. If Nord and the others do not get matches with the title on the line, the reputation of the AWA belt will be severely damaged.

WOULD YOU CONSIDER a champion worthy if he had not wrestled for the title; that is to say, if he was handed the championship on the basis of a forfeit decision?

Would you consider a champion worthy if the former champ still had the title belt, and was in fact defending that belt in arenas halfway around the world?

Would you consider a champion worthy if he was the victim of pinfall after pinfall, night after night?

Of course, we're talking about Nick Bockwinkel and the AWA World title. But it all sounds just a little bit more dubious, if not downright ridiculous, when stated so matter-of-factly, doesn't it?

Let's face it: The AWA World title situation is a damnable mess, and it's not Bockwinkel's fault. It may not even be former champion Stan Hansen's fault.

Indeed, if any accusing finger be pointed, let it point in the direction of AWA President Stanley Blackburn.

After all, it was Blackburn who made the decision to award Bock-

winkel the title when Hansen walked out on a Denver title defense. It's not as if Bockwinkel held several victories over Hansen, or even that he was the number one contender for months on end. Actually, Hansen had done a fine job of battering (and bettering) every contender who rose to the top of the AWA to challenge for his title. So fine a job, in fact, that there really wasn't *anyone* in the AWA who was considered a major threat to take the belt from him in the near future.

But nobody considered AWA President Blackburn.

There never was an official reason given, but Hansen walked out on a Denver title defense against Bockwinkel. Denver promoter Gene Reed nervously phoned Blackburn for advice. Blackburn said that if Hansen did not return before the end of the card, the title would be awarded to Bockwinkel by default.

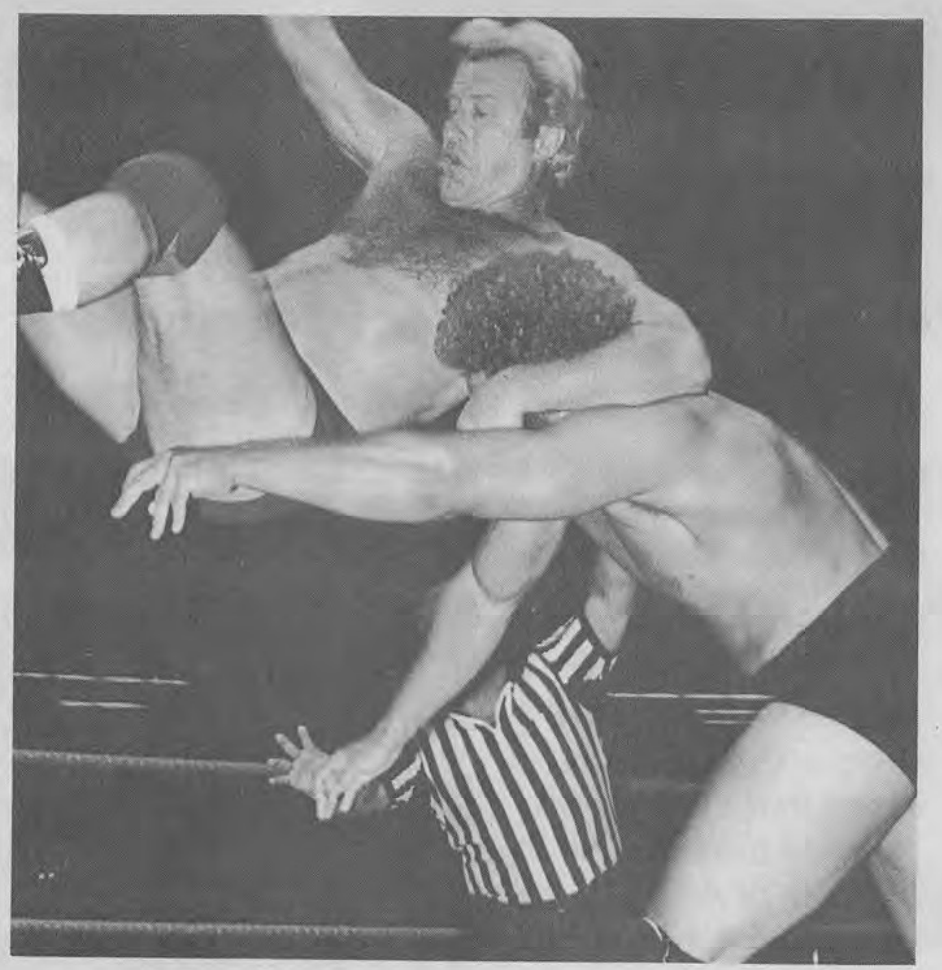
A bad decision. A reprimand was certainly called for. A fine. Perhaps a brief suspension. At the most—the very most—strip Hansen of the title and hold a tournament for the belt.

But to simply award the title—a *world* title—to a man who never had to step into the ring to get it, save to shake the hand of the promoter who relayed the decision? That is a scandal of the highest order.

And Bockwinkel has not proven himself worthy during this, his fourth, title reign. He's been pinned in many non-title matches, most notably by contenders Col. DeBeers and Nord the Barbarian. Bockwinkel's claim to the title is shaky at best.

Meanwhile, Hansen is running around Japan, defending his claim to the AWA title against top Japanese contenders.

So why does the AWA continue to place the full weight of its organizational clout behind Bockwinkel? Particularly in light of Hansen's Japan activities and the efforts of Japanese promoters to sign a Bockwinkel-Hansen match to clear up the confusion.

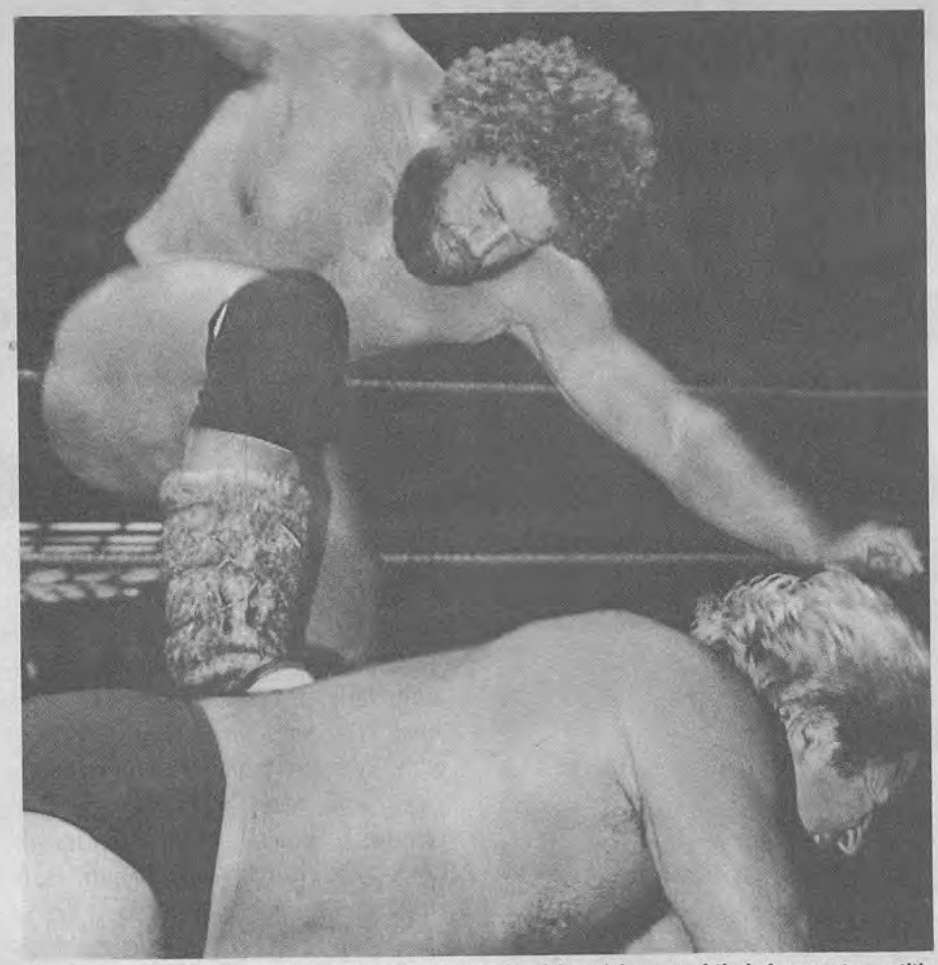


"A Bockwinkel-Hansen match is absolutely and totally unnecessary," said AWA President Blackburn when contacted by *The Wrestler*. "Nick Bockwinkel is the AWA World heavyweight champion. Hansen has no claim at all to the title. As far as the AWA offices are concerned, there simply is no controversy. Bockwinkel is the champion."

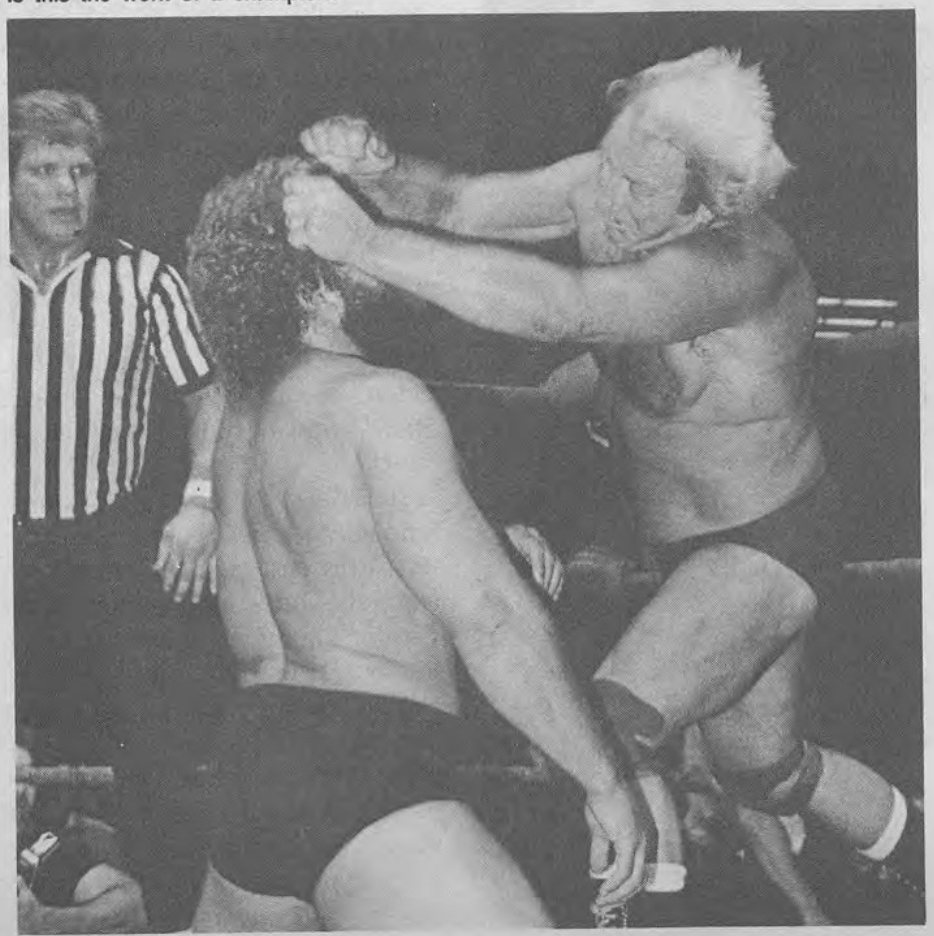
Blackburn's comments reek of denial—denial of the complexities of the series of events that brought the AWA title to Bockwinkel, denial of Hansen's complaints, and denial of Bockwinkel's sorry track record since being awarded the title.

Again, the question: Why does the AWA continue to place the full weight of its organizational clout behind Bockwinkel?

Nord the Barbarian's dominance over Bockwinkel (top and below) has been thorough and embarrassing to AWA officials. Despite this, Nord has been denied title shots by President Stanley Blackburn.



Nord works on the champion's lower back muscles (above) in one of their frequent non-title bouts. Bockwinkel occasionally has the advantage (below) but rarely can sustain it for long. Is this the work of a champion?



We honestly don't know for sure, though the most obvious conclusion is that they simply wanted an excuse—*any* excuse—to get the title away from Hansen. After all, Hansen is an unruly and quite uncontrollable individual. Perhaps they feel that the title is safer around Bockwinkel's waist. Perhaps they feel that Bockwinkel is an easier individual over whom to exercise a modicum of control.

[The question of whether or not Hansen should have been stripped of the title is posed to the fans in the "You Decide" feature in the current issue of ***Wrestling 86.****]*

But maybe the more important question is this: Why is the AWA sanctioning so many non-title matches for Bockwinkel? Indeed, it appears as if they're sanctioning the bare minimum of title matches legally allowable for Bockwinkel to maintain his hold on the AWA title.

That amounts to an overt action of protection for the AWA champion, protection against men like Nord and DeBeers and others who have repeatedly proven superiority over the champion.

There are really only two major alternatives of action for the AWA to take:

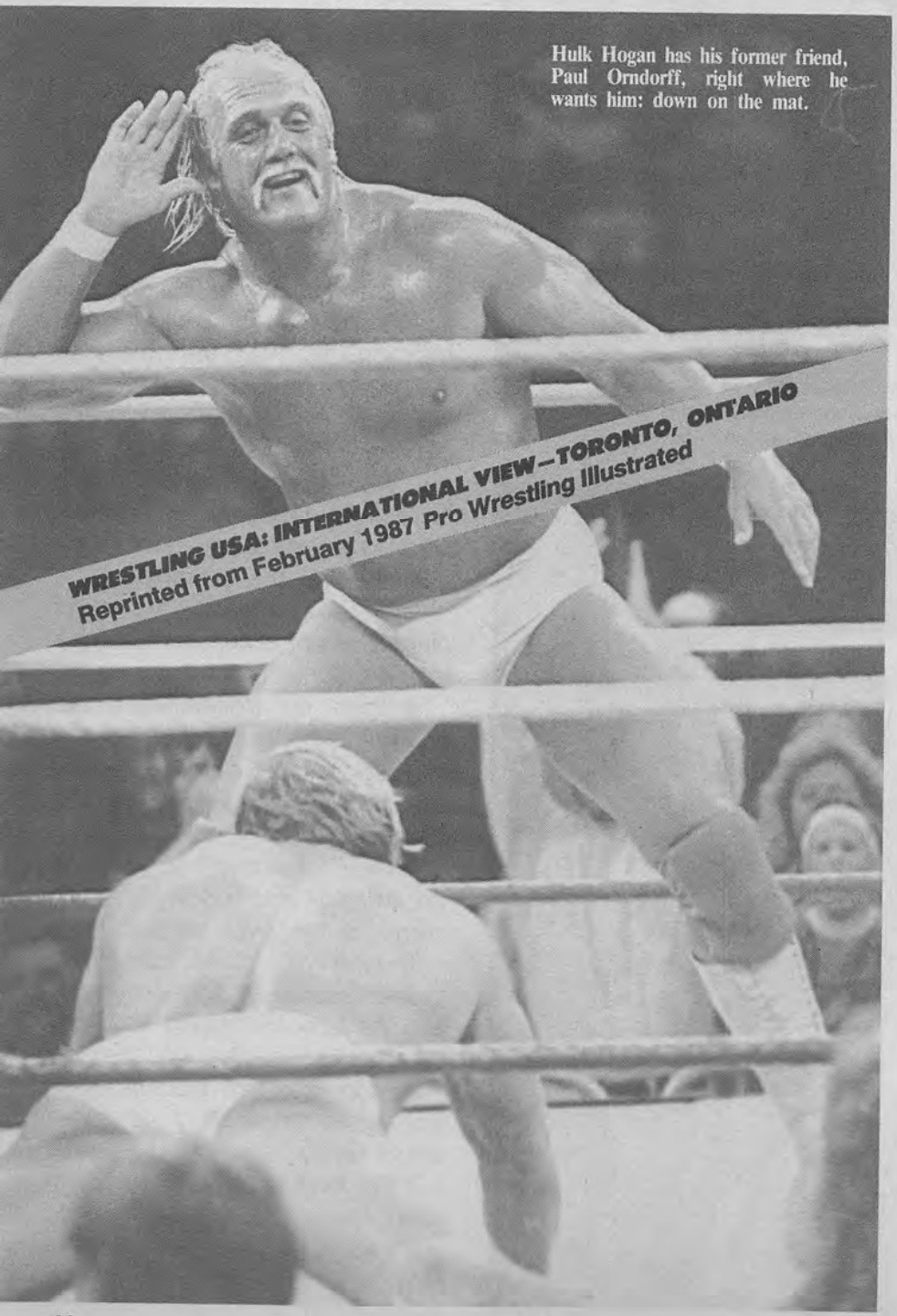
- Open up Bockwinkel's title defense schedule. Those holding non-title victories over Bockwinkel deserve, and should receive, title matches.
- Allow Hansen to wrestle Bockwinkel and unify the twin claims to the AWA title.

The AWA World champion should represent the federation and the fans. He should not, however, be so tightly controlled by that federation that the title loses any sense of worth it otherwise would have.

If the AWA does not take action soon, the complex multiple world title situation may—before the AWA realizes it—become one title less confusing. □

HOGAN vs. ORNDORFF:

WRESTLING'S HOTTEST FEUD



Hulk Hogan has his former friend, Paul Orndorff, right where he wants him: down on the mat.

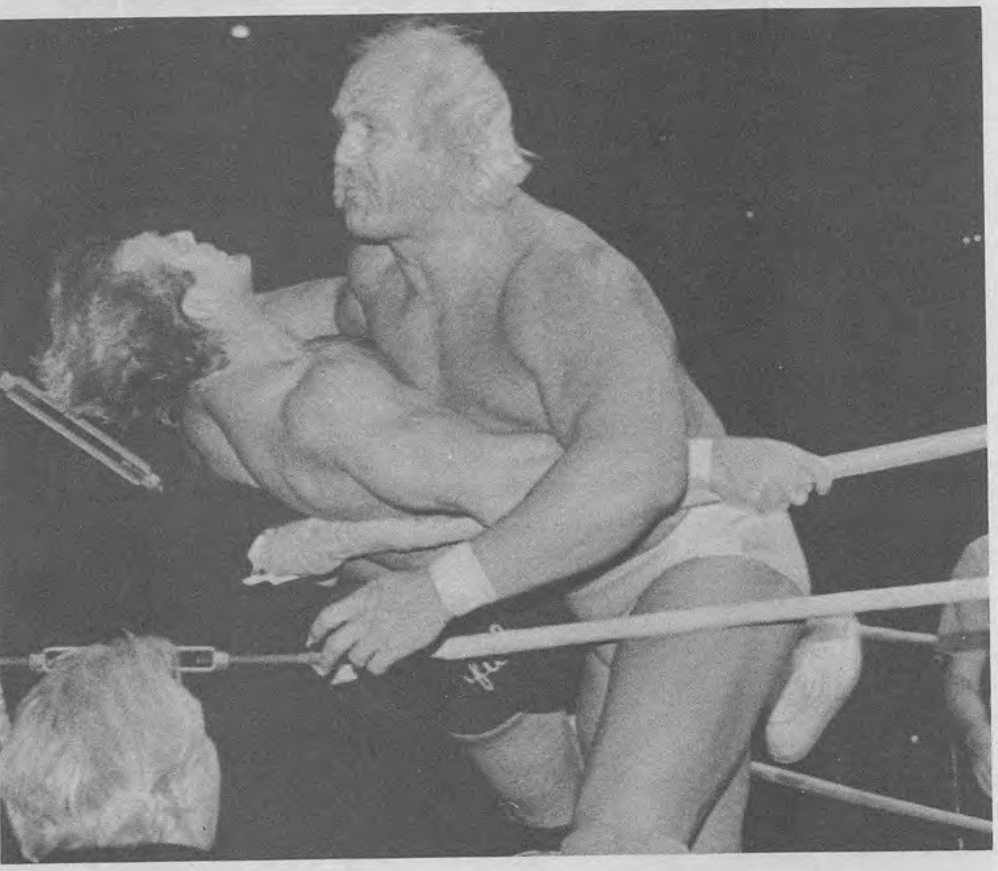
WRESTLING USA: INTERNATIONAL VIEW—TORONTO, ONTARIO
Reprinted from February 1987 Pro Wrestling Illustrated

A FAST STUDY of the WWF over the past two years reveals a federation ripe with turmoil and intrigue, an association more appropriately labeled *The Good, The Bad, And The Sometimes Both.* Starting with WrestleMania 1, when Roddy Piper and Bob Orton forsook Paul Orndorff, leaving "Mr. Wonderful" no choice but to align with Hulk Hogan, the fans have needed a scorecard to keep track of their heroes' dispositions.

Piper remained a high-profile menace, battling Hogan, Orndorff, Mr. T and whomever else the WWF promoters could throw at him—until recently, when a stint in a motion picture kept him from the ring. When he returned to discover that Adrian Adonis' "Flower Shop" had nudged his "Piper's Pit" from the small screen, the Scotsman rebelled. When he discovered his friend and longtime bodyguard, Cowboy Bob Orton, on the set of the "Flower Shop" working for Adonis, Piper raged.

Today—or at least as of press time—WWF fans have forgiven Piper for all his past offenses. He has become the area's most popular wrestler (for the moment, at least, nudging out perennial favorite Hogan). He has teamed with Hogan, though the two have not officially reconciled. Whether or not that will ever happen is an uncertainty. But one thing *is* for certain: There will not be a reunion between Piper and his former tag team partner Orndorff. Cit-

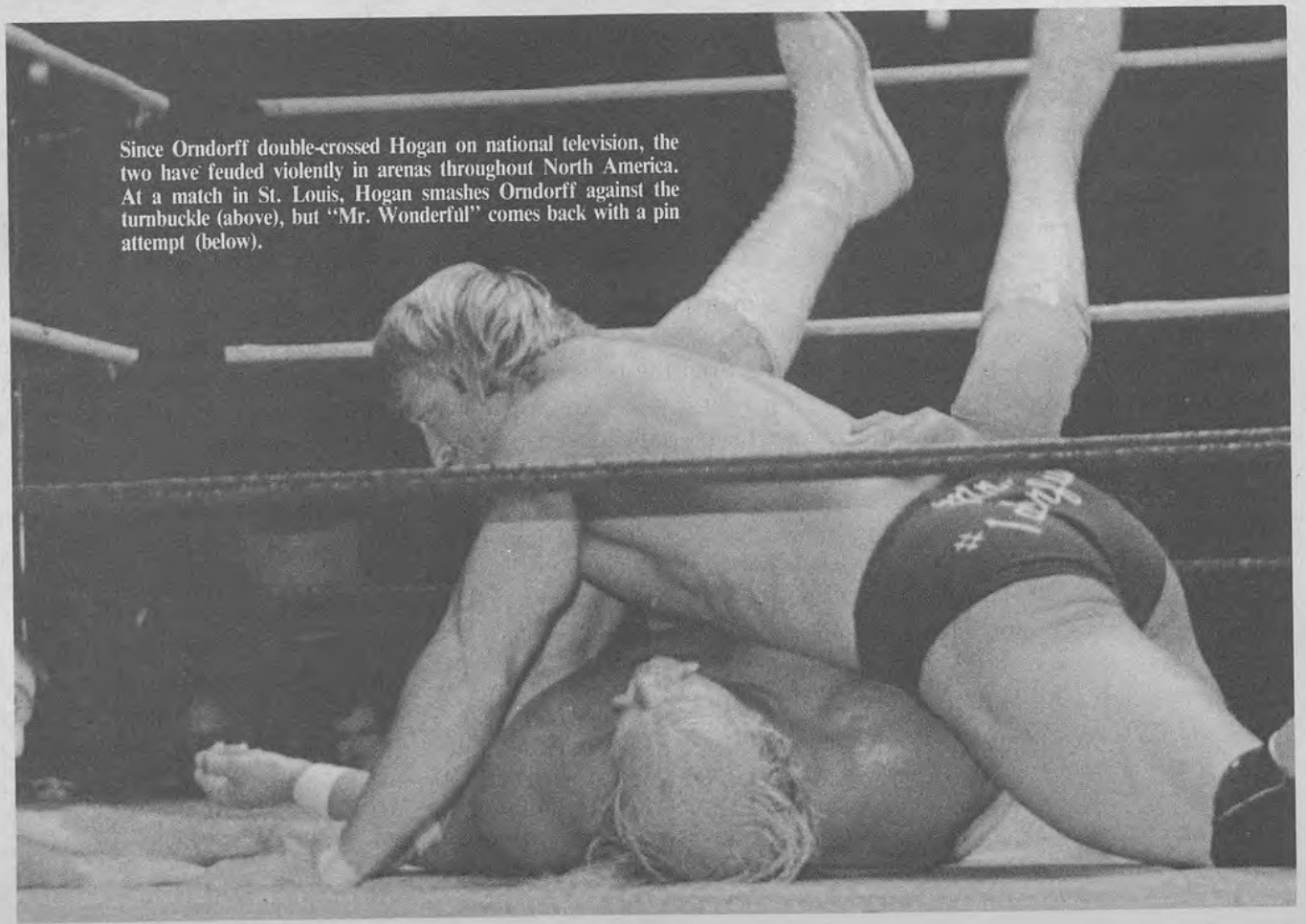
With the competitors so evenly matched, the fans may prove to be the decisive factor in the Hogan-Orndorff wars



ing irreconcilable differences, Orndorff recently broke from Hogan's camp, and has engaged the WWF champ in a series of brutal title matches.

Piper and Orndorff both claim that fan support is irrelevant to their overall game plans. They are careful to emphasize their independence as professional wrestlers. However, they seem locked into an unnatural cycle, one in which won/lost records take a back seat to personal feuds, one where ego becomes the dominant factor.

While Hulk Hogan's ego remains as large as his biceps, his hammerlock on the WWF is due more to his consistency than anything else. While better wrestlers have challenged for Hogan's title, the champion has relied on a straightforward approach in keeping it. Hogan has simply outlasted his opponents,



Since Orndorff double-crossed Hogan on national television, the two have feuded violently in arenas throughout North America. At a match in St. Louis, Hogan smashes Orndorff against the turnbuckle (above), but "Mr. Wonderful" comes back with a pin attempt (below).

Just as Orndorff is being piledrived, his manager, Bobby Heenan, interferes (right). Heenan most likely masterminded Orndorff's betrayal of the champion, who throws his foe headfirst into the turnbuckle (below right). Several prominent wrestling observers say Orndorff may become the next WWF World champion.

proving himself one of history's most durable champions.

Even Hogan's staunchest critics—those who were quick to criticize the time Hogan spent pursuing his Hollywood activities—acknowledge Hogan's biggest advantage is his ability to keep within himself, to not allow his personal affairs to distract him in the ring.

Never has this been more apparent than in this latest feud against Paul Orndorff. The conventional wisdom has it that Orndorff's latest Jekyll-and-Hyde was masterminded by Bobby Heenan. True or not, Orndorff already has proven to be Hogan's stiffest competition. Comparable in strength and more versatile, scientifically trained and, via his friendship with Hogan, privy to many of the champ's secrets, Orndorff appears an extremely good candidate to wrest the belt from Hogan.

But while their matches have been wild, sadistic affairs, Orndorff remains the challenger, Hogan the champion. One critic pointed to the recent Toronto card as proof of Hogan's dominance. "No matter how vehemently he might deny it," he said, "Orndorff was flustered. Just last month he had been accorded standing ovations. Now he was being booed by 65,000 people.

"Heenan rescued him at the end. Orndorff was too shaken up to fight. The man has three times Hogan's skills in every category, yet he couldn't handle the crowd."

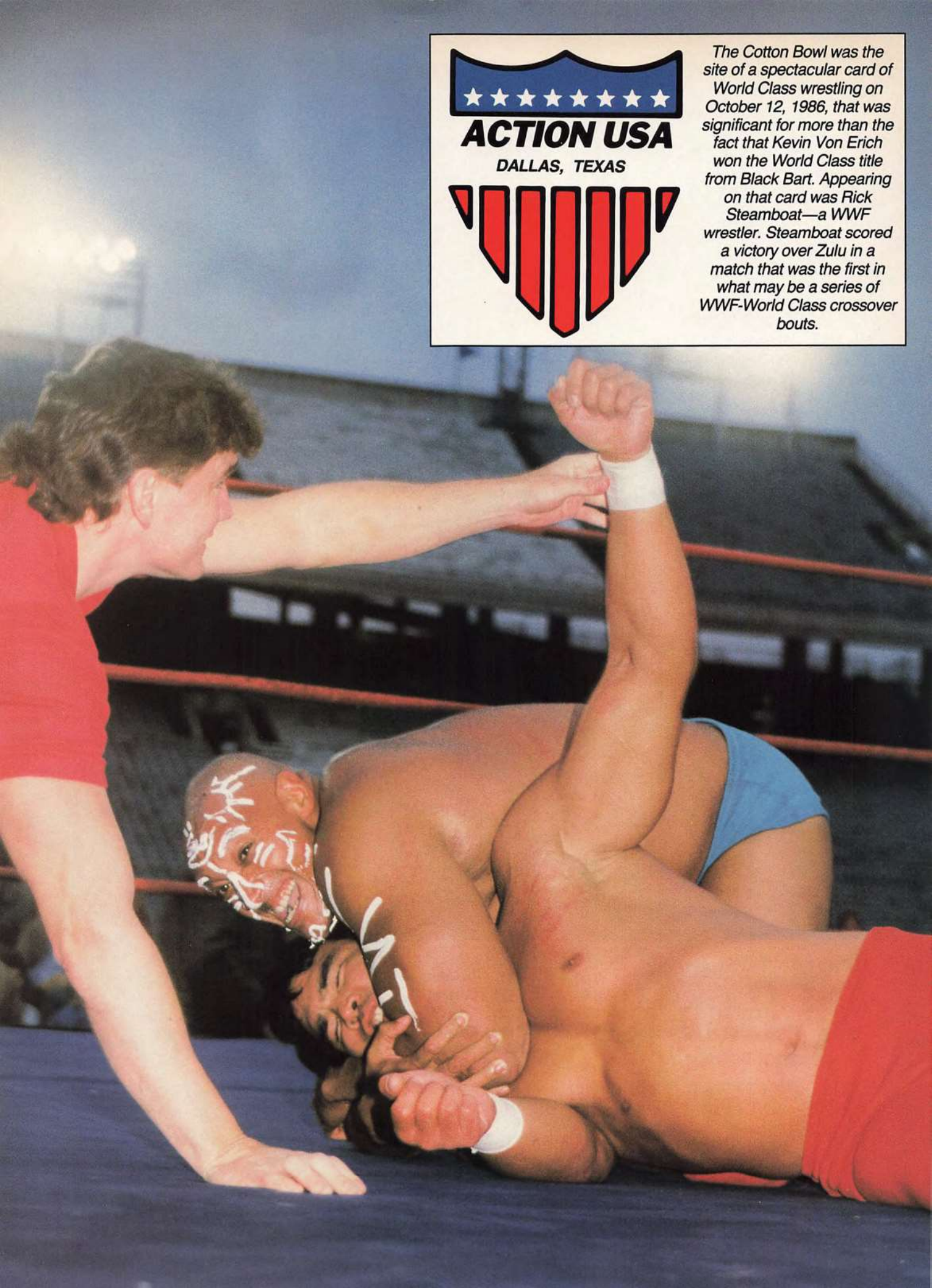
Certainly time will diminish the crowd's effect on Orndorff. "But by then Hogan will have discovered a strategy to defeat him. Hogan's resiliency will win in the end. He's not pretty. He's successful. And that is what counts in this business."

It is hard to imagine Paul Orndorff so easily flustered. Here is a man cast as Atlas in a television commercial, a man resolute in his commitment to success. Yet even he is not immune from the power of the public. For over a year Orndorff was seduced by the fans' cheers, a power too often underestimated. The support, despite Orndorff's hardened image, became a pivotal part of his strategy.

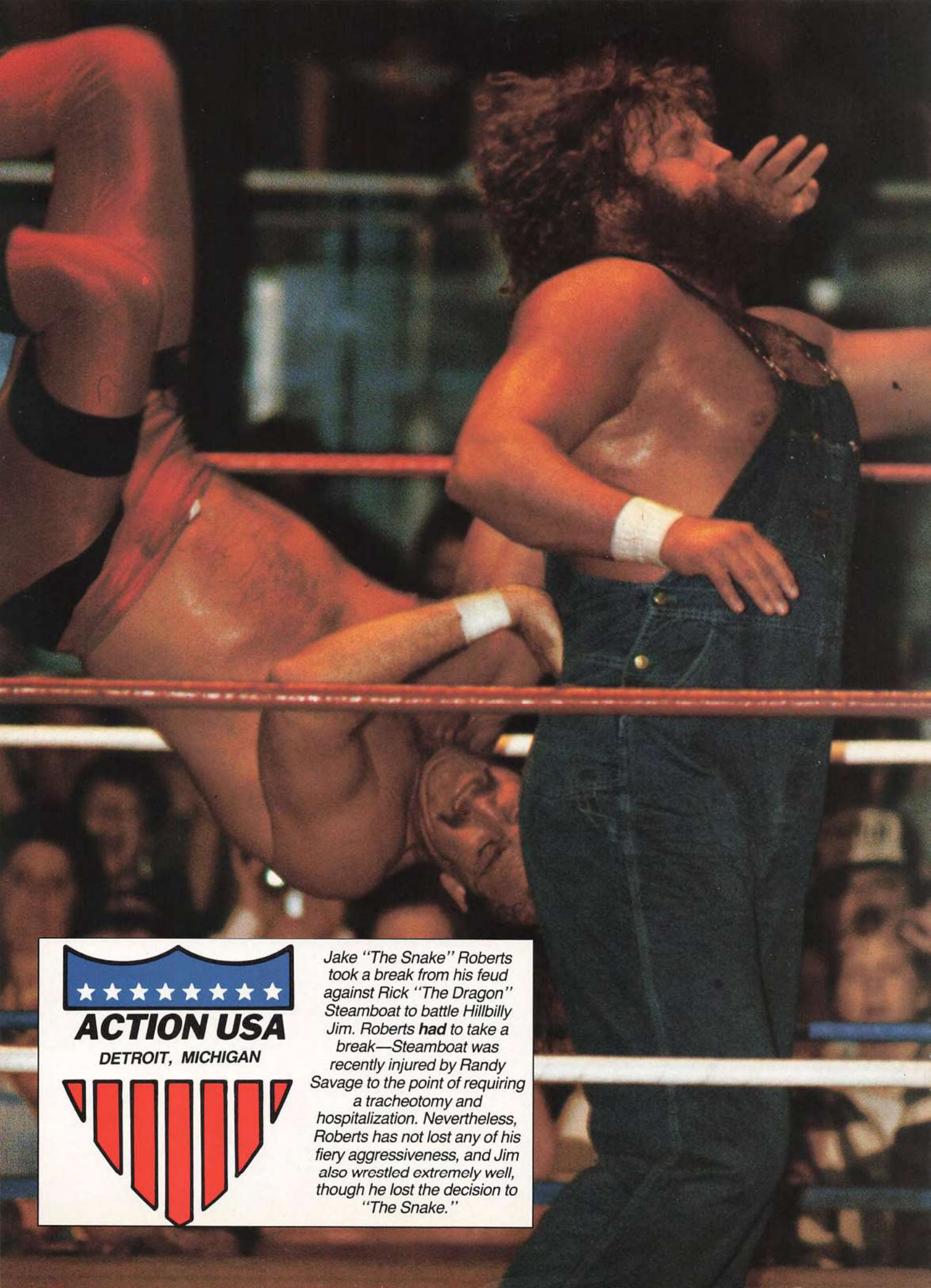
As noted sports psychologist Dr. Hiram Pettijean points out, "The conscious and subconscious role the fans play in professional sports is as important as the equipment they use. In the case of Orndorff, we have a man who denies courting the fans, denies any effect they might have had on him.

"He is wrong. Just as a cheering crowd might spur a basketball player on to several extra points a night, they have a similar effect on a wrestler. Orndorff should not forget that his career really took off after he broke with Piper."

The wars continue. Both combatants enjoy obvious advantages, and although Hogan has prevailed thus far, Orndorff is never far from victory. With the managerial genius of Bobby Heenan to guide him, Orndorff could emerge with the crown on any given night. The real winners are those fans—like the record 65,000 present in Toronto—privileged to watch the two ring giants tussle. They have memories they will keep for a lifetime. □



The Cotton Bowl was the site of a spectacular card of World Class wrestling on October 12, 1986, that was significant for more than the fact that Kevin Von Erich won the World Class title from Black Bart. Appearing on that card was Rick Steamboat—a WWF wrestler. Steamboat scored a victory over Zulu in a match that was the first in what may be a series of WWF-World Class crossover bouts.



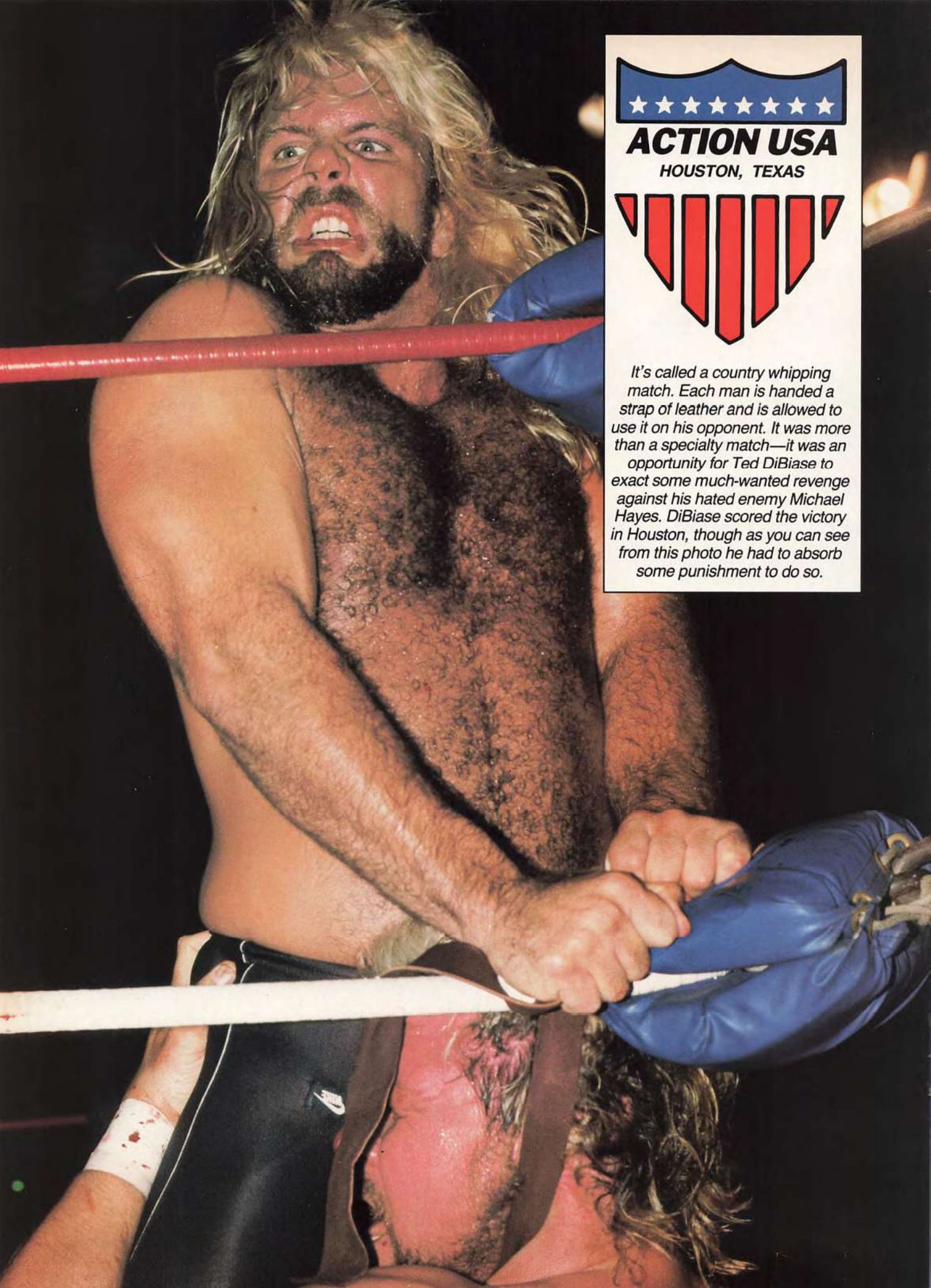
ACTION USA

DETROIT, MICHIGAN

Jake "The Snake" Roberts took a break from his feud against Rick "The Dragon" Steamboat to battle Hillbilly Jim. Roberts ***had*** *to take a break—Steamboat was recently injured by Randy Savage to the point of requiring a tracheotomy and hospitalization. Nevertheless, Roberts has not lost any of his fiery aggressiveness, and Jim also wrestled extremely well, though he lost the decision to "The Snake."*

ACTION USA
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

The war is on: Ole and Arn Anderson have declared that they will not rest until they capture the NWA World tag team belts from The Rock 'n' Roll Express. And though the Andersons failed to capture the belts at Starrcade '86, they've vowed that their Thanksgiving Day defeat will not stop their drive to the championship gold. This Philadelphia match convinced Morton (shown vs. Ole) and Gibson of their seriousness.



ACTION USA

HOUSTON, TEXAS

It's called a country whipping match. Each man is handed a strap of leather and is allowed to use it on his opponent. It was more than a specialty match—it was an opportunity for Ted DiBiase to exact some much-wanted revenge against his hated enemy Michael Hayes. DiBiase scored the victory in Houston, though as you can see from this photo he had to absorb some punishment to do so.

Lex Lugar Must See The Light

IT'S TIME TO LEAVE THE SUNSHINE STATE!

WRESTLING USA: MIAMI, FLORIDA
Reprinted from December 1986 *Inside Wrestling*

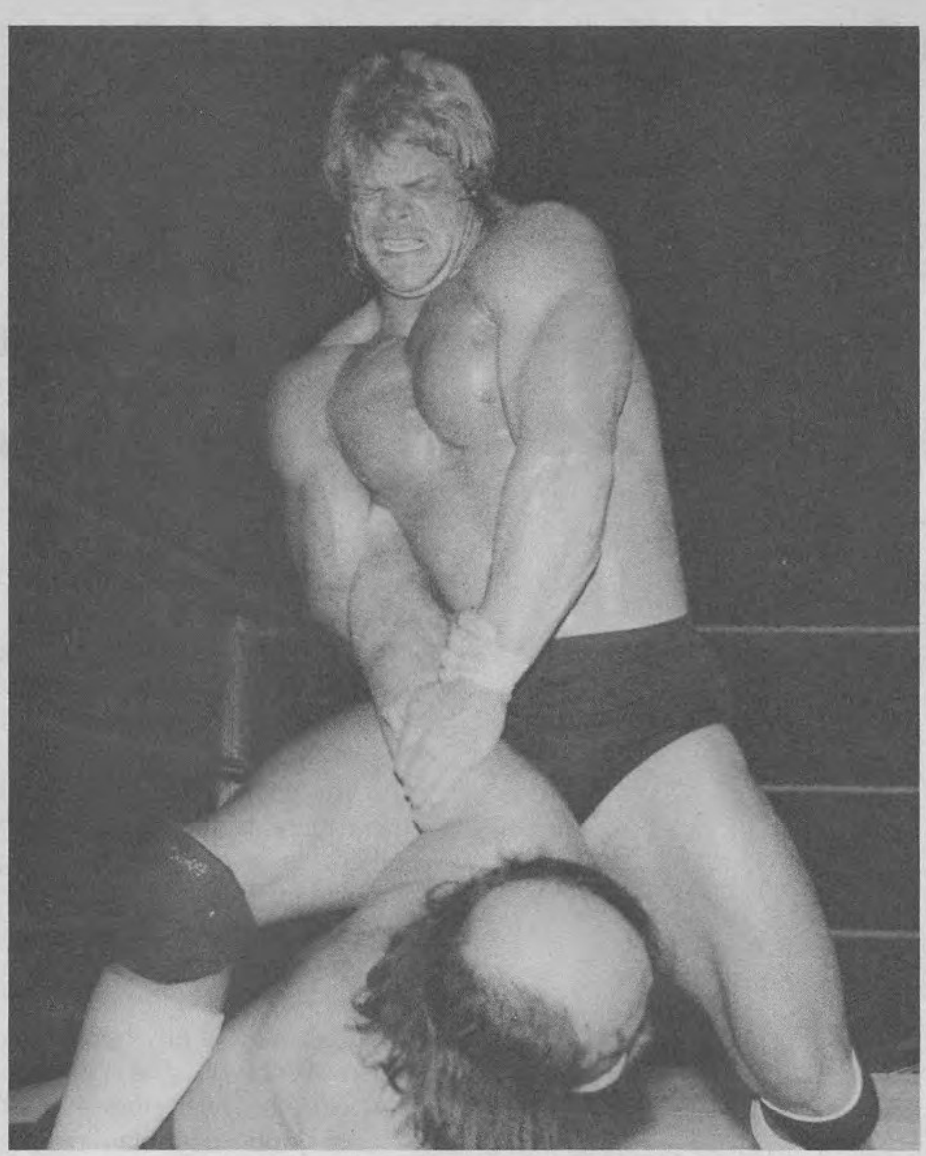
By staying in Florida, many critics feel that superstar Lex Lugar is hurting his chances at a major championship

IT'S A STUPID joke but no stupider than others of the same ilk. *How many of Lex Lugar's opponents does it take to screw in a light bulb? None. After they wrestle Lugar, they can't see anyway.*

The point is made. Here in Florida there is Lex Lugar and then there is everyone else. Lugar's dominance of the state is so complete and secure that already—after only a year or so in the sport—he is in the position of being left without any quality opposition. What up and coming star would dare risk the embarrassment and possible injury that wrestling Lugar poses?

"Nonsense," the big man answers. "Every wrestler down here wants a shot at the Southern title. There's talent coming in every day. The Masked Superstar. Kendo Nagasaki. Ed Gantner. Flair was here not too long ago. This area could fire up at any moment."

Who's working whom? Lugar has bounced Nagasaki from Orlando down to Miami, heaping such punishment upon the Orien-

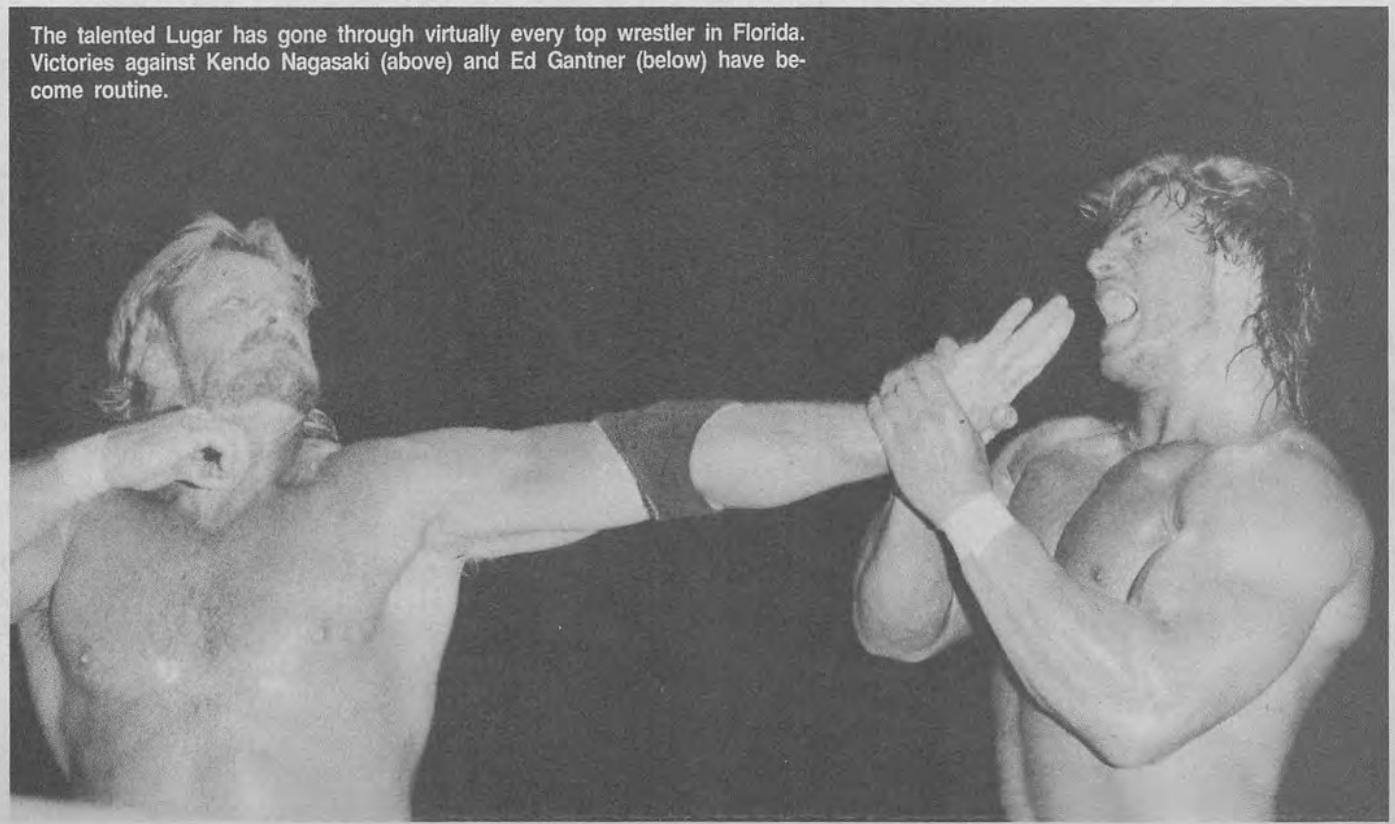


tal that Nagasaki's manager, the outspoken Sir Oliver Humperdink, can barely mouth a serious threat anymore.

The Masked Superstar came, he saw, and he left, managing during his quick stay to steal the Southern title by pinning Lugar after headbutting him with a foreign object while the champ's foot was caught in the ropes. The rematch was an ugly affair, Superstar receiving such a bad thrashing that if he hadn't needed a mask before, he would certainly need one now.

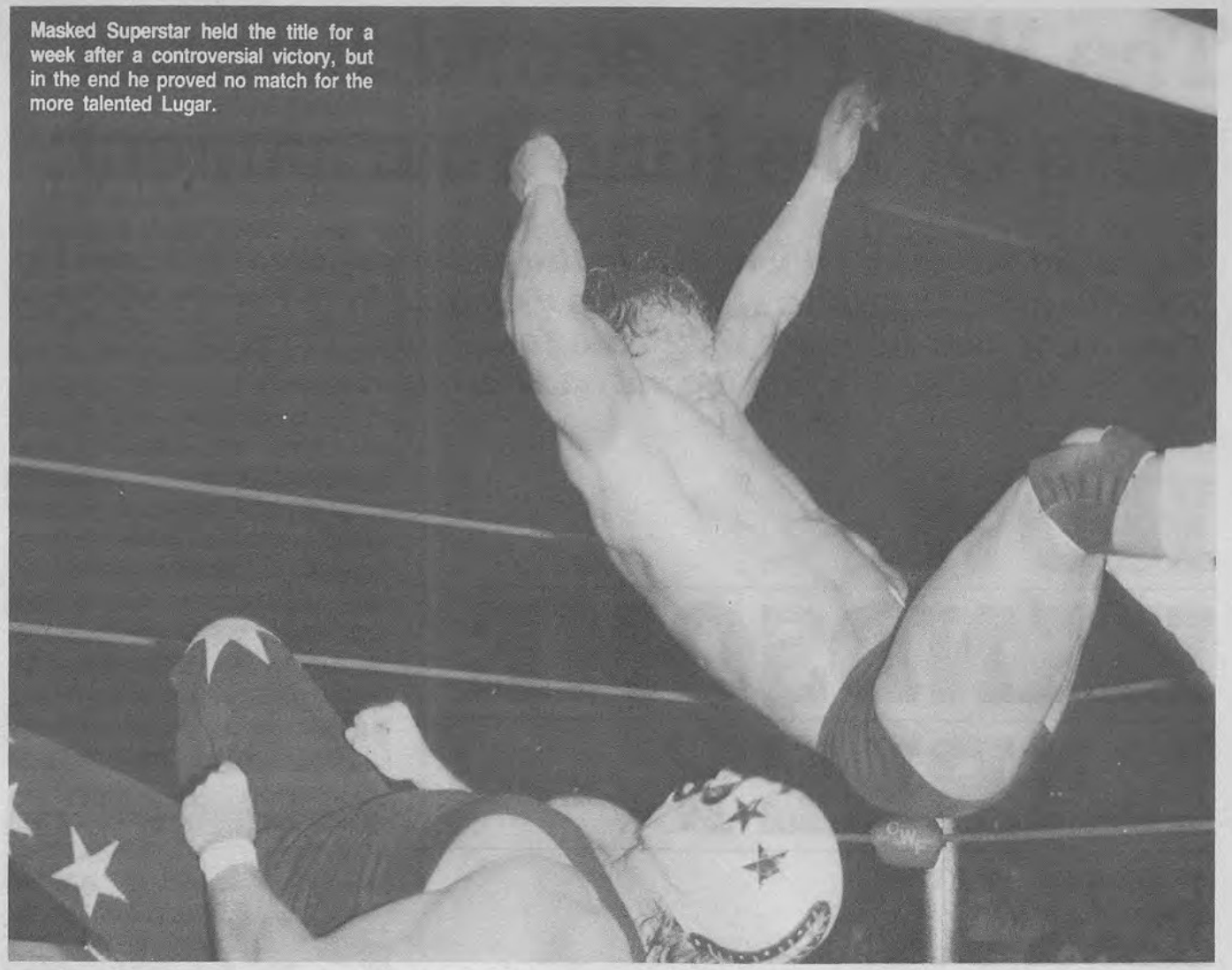
True, Flair *was* in Florida and Lugar took him measure for measure in winning the first fall, only to fall victim to a vicious attack by a dozen henchmen between falls, rendering him unable to continue. Now that Flair has his NWA crown back, the chances that he might return to Florida and face Lugar again before the year 2000 are slight.

And as for Ed "The Bull" Gantner, while not to diminish the talents of this brash, young rulebreaker, his best effort is still many years away from alarming



The talented Lugar has gone through virtually every top wrestler in Florida. Victories against Kendo Nagasaki (above) and Ed Gantner (below) have become routine.

Photos by Bill Otten



Masked Superstar held the title for a week after a controversial victory, but in the end he proved no match for the more talented Lugar.

Lex Lugar.

That about does it for the state except for Ron Bass, who is busy defending his Florida championship, and Barry Windham, whom Lugar has befriended and will not wrestle.

Clearly, for Lugar to advance as a wrestler, he must take on a variety of the best wrestlers in the world. And if they're not going to come to him, he'd better go out and purchase a set of luggage. "Don't worry about Lex Lugar," says his former manager and mentor Hiro Matsuda. "Mr. Lugar knows what he is doing. Mr. Lugar very capable of taking care of himself.

"We worked on a master plan for his career months ago, and although I am no longer in daily contact with him, I am pleased to see he is sticking by it. Too many young wrestlers expect to own the sport right away. Some of the best talent has been ruined by being brought along too fast.

"It is obvious to anyone watching that Mr. Lugar has outgrown his Florida opposition. He no longer needs to concentrate on victories. Now the emphasis is on technique. He is improving in every category. Soon he will be ready for the country."

Our own veteran correspondent, Matt Brock, doesn't buy Matsuda's explanation. "I hate to say it, but I think Lugar has cold feet. It's either that or his handlers are making a very big mistake. Matsuda is dead wrong. You don't improve by wrestling against the same wrestlers who you've already established your dominance against. I don't mean to denigrate the Florida area, but I feel Lugar has grown beyond all the competition there.

"Lugar can still make Florida the base of his operations and wrestle there most often. But what's preventing him from making a trip to the World Championship area? Wrestling against Tully Blanchard, Nikita Koloff, and the Andersons? Or the UWF, and wrestling guys like The Freebirds or One Man Gang? Or the WWF, where he would be tested by wrestlers like Randy Savage, Big John Studd, and Paul Orndorff? So what if he dropped a couple of matches? The experience he would gain would make him a better wrestler practically overnight.

"And let me tell you something. There is no guarantee that those guys could take him. Even though he is confident and cocky, I think Lugar is underestimating his own ability. His talents belong to the

(Continued on page 65)

The WWF's Second Annual King Of The Ring Tournament:

Arguably the greatest wrestler in the history of the NWA, Harley Race seemed to be overstaying his welcome in the sport by the time he moved on to the WWF. But for one day in Foxboro, Massachusetts, this ring legend had his last hurrah

HOW HANDSOME HARLEY RACE BEAT THE ODDS

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HARLEY RACE'S RECORD will forever state that he was three-time AWA tag team champion with Larry Hennig and held the NWA World heavyweight belt an unprecedented seven times. Detractors to this ring legend will, naturally, claim that he *lost* the NWA belt seven times, also a record.

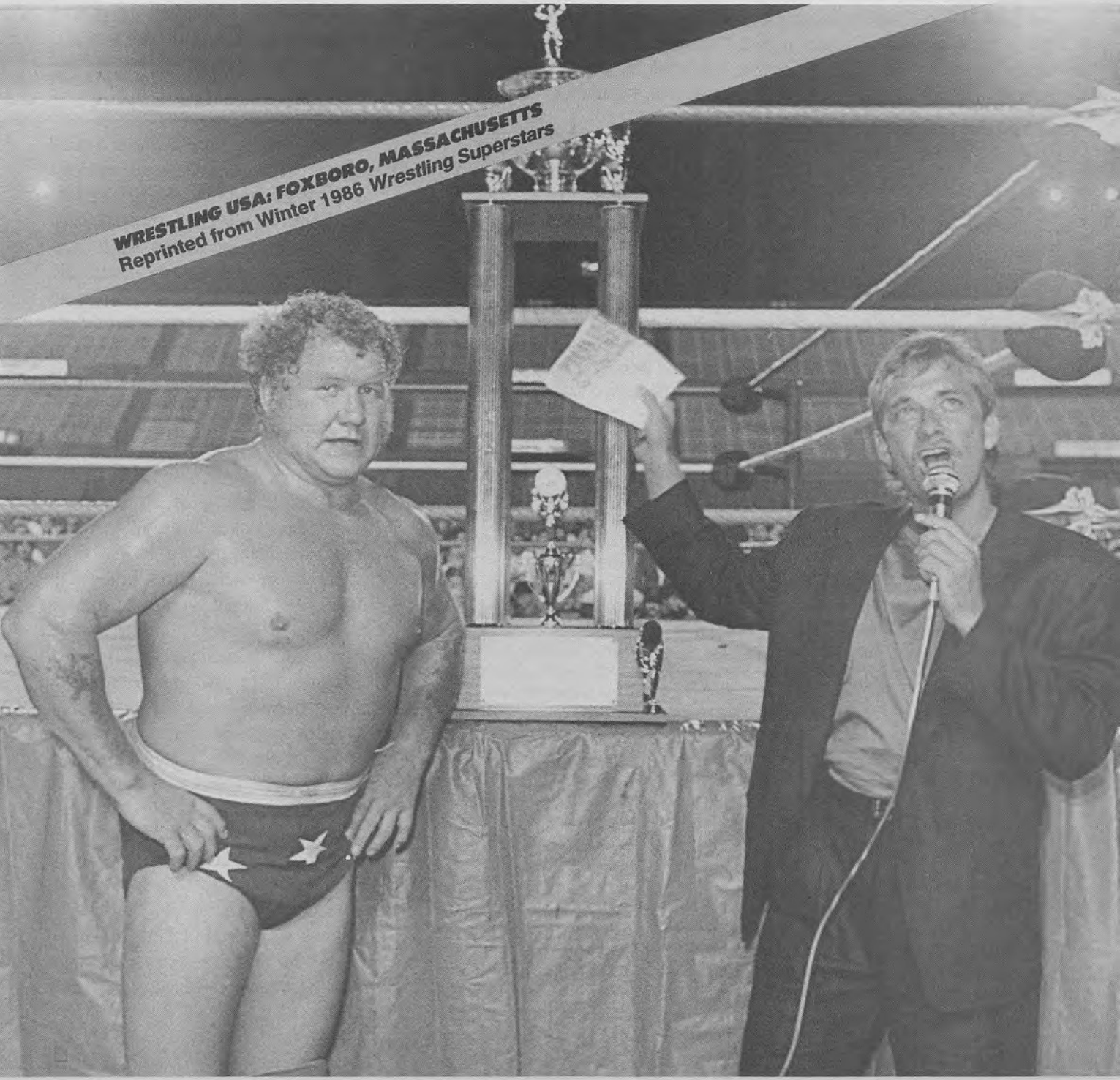
These detractors fail to acknowledge the dynasty that Race established over the NWA for over four years. From February 6, 1977, to June 21, 1981, he won and lost the NWA title five times. During this period, he was champion for 1,573 out of a possible 1,595 days and was never without the belt for more than seven days in a row. When Race lost the title for the final time, on November 24, 1983, the man who beat him was Ric Flair, the man who was beginning a new era of championship domination.

This, in part, explains why wrestling devotees throughout the country, from our own veteran award-winning journalist Matt Brock down to the most obscure faithful in Topeka, Kansas, nearly choked on their turnbuckles when Race turned up in the WWF.

Forget the fact that the WWF is largely looked upon as Vince McMahon's private circus, a league where wrestling ability ranks second to entertainment value, and that Harley Race, one of the most respected grapplers in history, was now a member of the troupe.

More important, Race had apparently reached the end of his great career and was trying to make one last stand when he would have been better off retiring gracefully. In the past years, sports fans have watched too many superstars try to lengthen their careers and thereby put an indelible black mark on otherwise flawless records. Race was at the point where retirement was the *only* respectable move, the sole decision that could fortify his legend.

But no. Harley insisted on signing on with the WWF. He insisted on continuing to wrestle, despite the fact that many of his moves had lost their effectiveness. When the fans chanted "Bor-ing, Bor-ing," as he methodically worked on his opponents, Race made believe that he didn't care. He cared,



1. Race tames "The Animal" with a chair. 2. In a battle of rulebreakers, Piper and Muraco are both counted out of the ring and eliminated. 3. Haynes outmuscled Race, but was later disqualified for applying a full-nelson while standing on the ring apron. 4. In the finals, Race backs away from Morales, trying to get a respite and regain his strength. 5. Race is declared "King Of The Ring" by Marc Mitchell of WZOU radio.

Photos by David Fitzgerald

and it hurt. And it hurt the fans who remembered Harley Race the way he was for over 20 years.

Enter Sullivan Stadium in Foxboro, Massachusetts, and the WWF's second annual King Of The Ring Tournament. Bring on the likes of Roddy Piper, Magnificent Muraco, George Steele, Billy Jack Haynes, The Iron Sheik, Junkyard Dog, Paul Orndorff, and Pedro Morales. And take that trophy over there and give it to the older, graying man sitting in the corner, the one with Hall of Fame written all over his face, the one who has put up with unfair criticism for the past five months, the one named Harley Race.

The year of veterans in sports has brought us Nick Bockwinkel (AWA champion), Jack Nicklaus (Masters winner), Willie Shoemaker (Kentucky Derby winning jockey), and now Race, who somehow found a way to overcome the odds and become the WWF's "King Of The Ring."

Of course, there are always the Race detractors. There are those who can find fault in even the finest accomplishments. They'll point out that Race won his first-round match because George Steele was disqualified, that he received a bye in the second round, and that he beat Haynes in the semifinals via a countout. Then they'll have a field day with the final, saying that Pedro Morales had his foot on the ropes when Race applied the pin and the match should have continued. Ignore these people. They have no flair for the dramatic.

Race got his biggest break when the referee disqualified both Roddy Piper and Magnificent Muraco from the first round. This came as a big disappointment to the crowd of 9,000, because the controversial Piper was making his first appearance in months and the rulebreaker vs. rulebreaker match with Muraco was, indeed, a WWF rarity. Because of the double-disqualification, Race received a bye in the second round.

Race was the beneficiary of typical George "The Animal" Steele madness in his first-round bout. Steele lost control late in the match and was disqualified for throwing chairs. This gave Race a free pass to the semifinals, where he faced young and dangerous Billy Jack Haynes, a recent returnee to the WWF. Haynes was in control of the match and applied what should have been a match-ending full-nelson on Race, but Billy had applied the move from the ring apron and got counted out by the referee.

Taking advantage of his good fortune, Race looked like NWA World champion Harley Race in his final-round victory over Pedro Morales. The insensitive, unthinking fans continued to chant "Bor-ing, Bor-ing" while Race expertly outmaneuvered Pedro. Although there was some controversy over the finish, it was apparent to any educated spectator that Race was the better wrestler.

"I thought I was watching Harley Race, circa 1973," said Matt Brock, who was on special assignment in the Boston area. "The moves, the way he reacted in the ring, everything, it was like somebody gave him a shot of youth. I was proud of him, I think all of us who had seen him in his prime were proud. He's added yet another chapter to the Harley Race legend."

And another entry to a list of accomplishments, which never seems to end. □

"THOSE VETERANS REALLY TAUGHT THE YOUNG GUYS A LESSON"

THE SECOND ANNUAL "King Of The Ring" tournament at Sullivan Stadium provided fans with a look at 16 of the WWF's finest stars wrestling through four grueling rounds on a hot July afternoon.

Each match, with the exception of the final round, was one fall with a 20-minute time limit. If the time limit was reached without a winner, both wrestlers were eliminated. The same situation applied to double-disqualifications.

The opening round featured the much-anticipated return of "Rowdy" Roddy Piper (who had taken a leave of absence to star in the movie *Body Slam)* against Magnificent Muraco. Both were disqualified, and thereby eliminated, when the action spilled outside the ring. Harley Race advanced to the second round when George Steele was disqualified for throwing chairs. Paul Orndorff hit the referee during his match against Junkyard Dog and became the fourth man to get disqualified. In the other first-round matches, Pedro Morales pinned Rudy Diamond, Billy Jack Haynes impressed WWF fans when he easily small-packaged Iron Sheik for the win, and Nikolai Volkoff made short work of Dan Spivey.

Mr. X and Mike Rotundo were both given first-round byes, but neither could win their second-round matches. Mr. X was virtually manhandled by Haynes, who had begun to emerge as the tournament favorite. Then, in an outstanding battle of two fan favorites, Morales narrowly got past Rotundo. Actually, this match looked like it might have ended in a double pin, but Morales managed to pick his shoulder up at the two-count. After the match, both wrestlers shook hands, certainly a rare occurrence.

Junkyard Dog was in trouble from the start of his match with Volkoff. JYD had suffered a slight knee injury in his first-round victory over Orndorff and wasn't wrestling at full strength against the dangerous Volkoff. JYD eventually submitted and Volkoff advanced to the semis along with Race, who received a second-round bye.

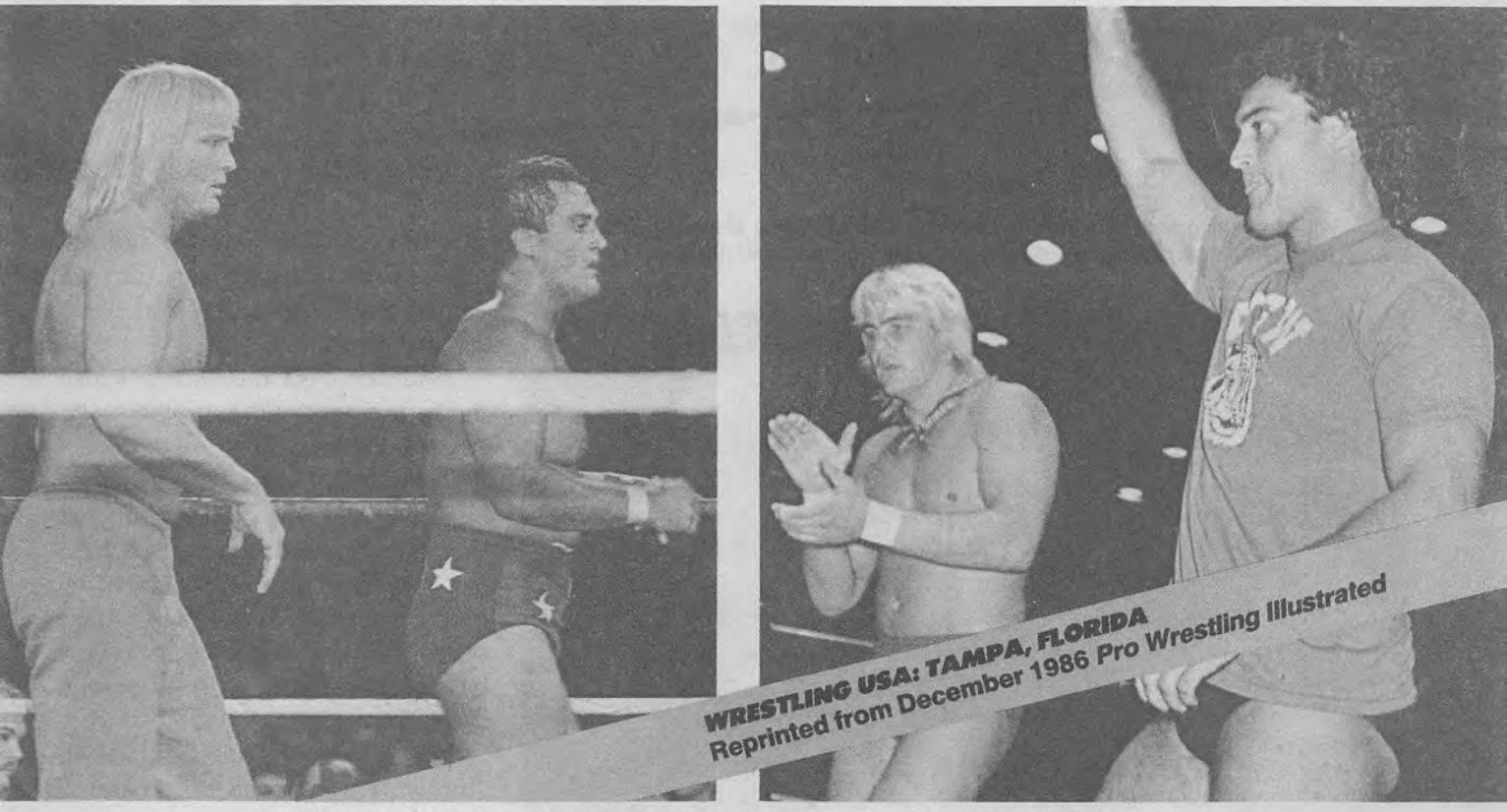
Haynes continued to impress in his semifinal round match with Race, but was counted out when he applied a full-nelson while standing outside the ring. Morales advanced to the finals by small-packaging Volkoff for the pin.

The controversial final left many questions unanswered, but the tournament itself provided a showcase for the still impressive abilities of two veteran wrestlers, Harley Race and Pedro Morales. In the words of one fan filing out of Sullivan Stadium, "Those veterans really taught the young guys a lesson."

Barry Windham's Message To WWF Fans:

ROTUNDO AND SPIVEY ARE *NOT* THE U.S. EXPRESS!

According to Barry Windham, there is only one U.S. Express and they are temporarily retired. Who, then, is that tag team wrestling in the WWF calling itself the U.S. Express?



WRESTLING USA: TAMPA, FLORIDA
Reprinted from December 1986 *Pro Wrestling Illustrated*

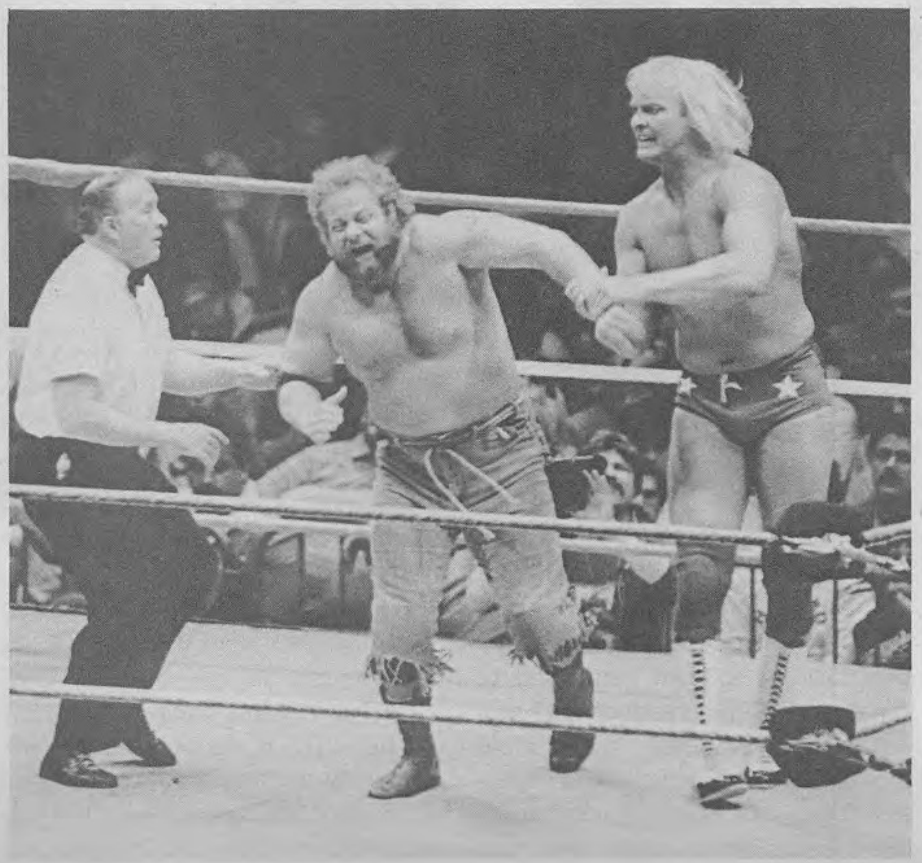
Will the real U.S. Express please stand up? Are Mike Rotundo and Danny Spivey (above left) the real thing or are Rotundo and Barry Windham (above right) the one and only?

HE SAID IT once, then repeated himself five minutes later. Ten minutes after that he had said it again. By the interview's conclusion, an hour later, he had said it so many times that one's suspicions couldn't help but to become aroused.

"Hey, man, I love those guys," said Barry Windham, in reference to the tag team calling themselves the U.S. Express, a team composed of Windham's former partner and best friend, Mike Rotundo, and his old protege, Dan Spivey. "I wish Mike and Danny the best of luck. I really do. I just want it made clear that there can only be one U.S. Express. And that team died when I came to Florida.

"What the fans are watching now in the WWF is the very competent, extremely exciting tag team of Mike Rotundo and Dan Spivey. They are *not* watching the U.S. Express. The

Spivey enters the ring to lend a hand as Rotundo airplane spins Moondog Rex (above). Spivey twists Rex's arm and prepares to throw him into the ropes (below).



U.S. Express was Windham and Rotundo. Until that team gets back together, any others using that name are imposters.

"And don't get me wrong. I love those two guys like brothers. I'd stop a bullet for either one of them."

Fortunately, Florida has strict laws regulating the use of handguns, so Windham will probably not be held to his pledge. Yet this Windham, reposed gracefully in the living room of his Tampa beachhouse, is utterly believable. He *does* wish his friends the best of luck.

Rotundo remains his best friend. The two have revived their partnership on several special occasions and their old magic, the razzle-dazzle that characterized the U.S. Express, was ever present. He has encouraged Rotundo to pursue his own career as he himself has done, and supported him every step of the way.

And though a twinge of resentment in Dan Spivey's direction

Spivey squares off against Nikolai Volkoff (above) and takes delight in the predicament in which he has the Russian (below). While Barry Windham likes and respects Spivey, he fears that his career might be hurt by the inevitable comparisons with himself.

might be permissible—Spivey, after all, has been shamelessly cultivated by the WWF kingpins to imitate Windham's every characteristic—Windham understands the pressures a young wrestler is under to succeed and graciously allows for it.

"Hey, I know what it was like when I first started out," he said. "There is intense pressure to carve an image for yourself. Sometimes it's easier to step in as someone else. It can also be very dangerous. Everyone needs a role model. But if you're not careful, you're liable to lose yourself in another's image. Danny's not stupid. He doesn't want to spend his career as a Barry Windham clone. He's too good of a wrestler for that. I have faith that he'll work it out for himself."

It was Windham who discovered Scott Hall in a Tampa grocery store and convinced him to give up a fledgling basketball career in favor of the ring. Hall introduced Windham to his friend and workout partner, Spivey, and the three young men struck up an immediate friendship.

The similarities between Windham and Spivey go beyond the shocking manes of blond hair they share. Windham was generous with many of his ring tricks and Spivey remembered his lessons well. The one trademark Windham withheld—the bulldog headlock—Spivey has since learned from Rotundo.

Although Windham is quick to point out Spivey's deficiencies in the maneuver ("Spivey is a bit clumsy; he can't generate the necessary momentum"), the WWF fans seem unable to tell the difference. In a sport whose theme is often "What Have You Done For Me Lately?" where idols are discarded like day-old bread only to be replaced with a bare minimum of sentimentality by others, could Windham be worried that his place in the hearts of wrestling fans is in danger of being undermined?

"I wish those guys the best of luck," he repeats. "My fans won't forget me. There was only one Windham and Rotundo. There was only one U.S. Express. The fans can tell the difference."

Windham's dogged loyalty to his old tag team partner Rotundo evokes memories of their rousing triumphs over The Iron Sheik and Nikolai Volkoff back in the days when that duo was *the* most frightening tag team in the WWF.

"Nobody gave us a pig's chance in hell against the Sheik and Volkoff," Windham recalls. "We were the first team to beat those guys. We didn't just take the title from them. *We put the fear of God in them.* We showed them that American wrestlers are the toughest in the world. Hell, between Mike and I we were outweighed by over 100 pounds!

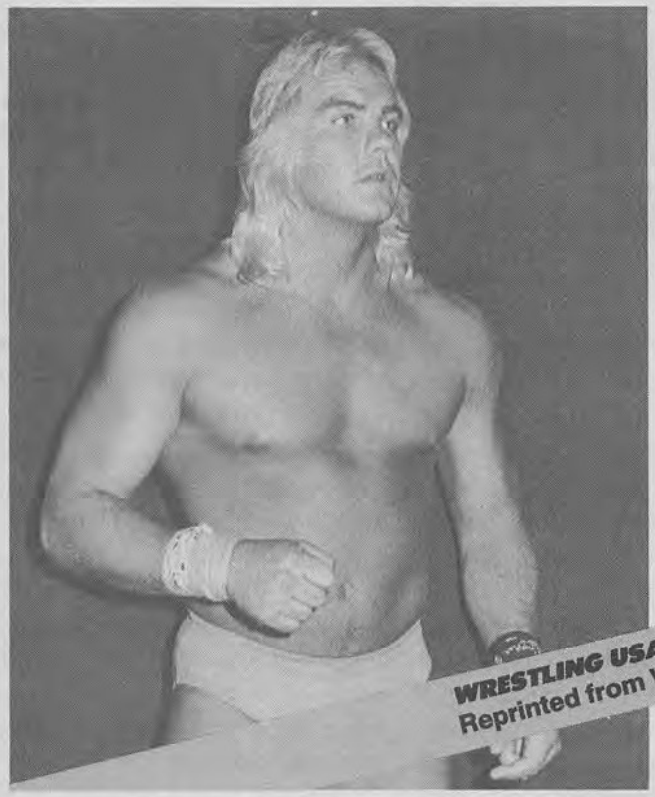
"Spivey's about as big as Volkoff. And I see them barely holding their own against them. The U.S. Express is not a name. It's a chemistry, one that cannot be duplicated. There wasn't a team in the world that could defeat Rotundo and me.

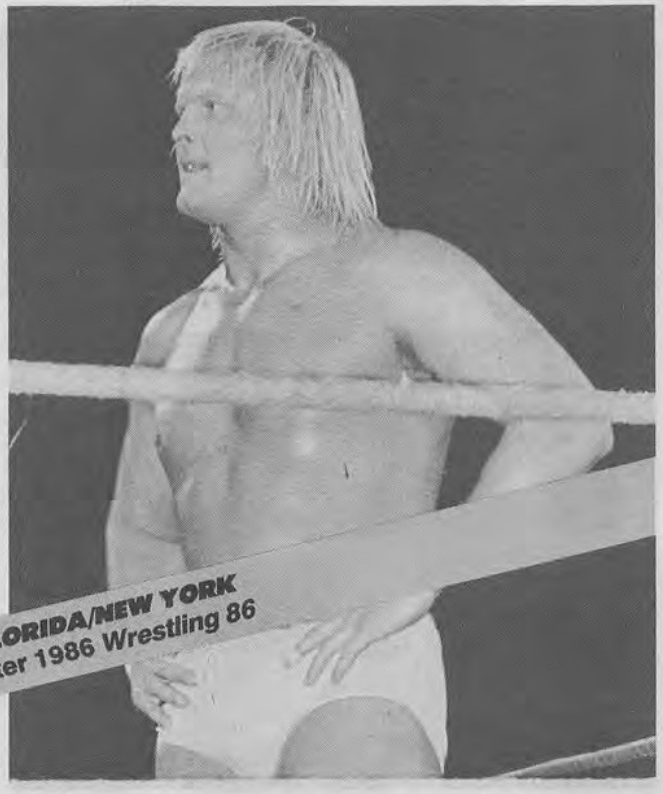
"Look at it this way. I'm teaming now with Lex Lugar and let me tell you you'll have to search far and wide for a more brutal, fearless competitor. Lugar is as tough as they come. But if it came down to it, at this point I would select Rotundo to be my partner over anybody.

"What we had came naturally. You can't buy that type of teamwork. So when people talk about the *new* U.S. Express, I just sit back and smile. Because someday they'll learn about the *only* U.S. Express. Someday they'll learn the truth." □

HEAD TO HEAD

BARRY WINDHAM vs. DAN SPIVEY





WRESTLING USA: FLORIDA/NEW YORK
Reprinted from Winter 1986 Wrestling 86

Wrestling is a sport of savage emotions, intense violence, wild feuds. Sometimes, however, people overlook its human side. When one looks beneath the surface, the men who make their living as professional wrestlers are not, for the most part, wild beasts trained to maim and kill, but real human beings with real feelings and real emotions.

In fact, so often wrestling is analogous to the human feeling of love. In wrestling, two men realize that they are compatible and form a tag team. They grow together as a team, learning each other's moves and building off of each other. Together, they experience wins and losses, thrills and agony, championships and devastation. Their friendship grows deeper. And sometimes, for career reasons or whatever else, the team decides to break up and find new partners. And naturally, the same feelings of resentment that a lover might experience are felt by a professional wrestler.

Such is the case with Barry Windham and Mike Rotundo, former tag team partners who will forever be known as the original U.S. Express. Together, they won the U.S. tag team championship in Florida and were two-time holders of the WWF belts. The match in which they regained the WWF title from Nikolai Volkoff and The Iron Sheik was perhaps the greatest moment in the association of this team.

This story starts in Florida, back in late 1983, when Windham and Rotundo were U.S. tag team champions. Windham discovered two young men named Dan Spivey and Scott Hall and convinced them to become wrestlers. Windham trained both men, teaching them everything he knew, and eventually, Spivey and Hall teamed to become The American Starship.

In late 1984, the four men parted ways. The U.S. Express moved on to the WWF, Spivey went to the Mid-Atlantic region, and Hall jumped to the AWA. Rotundo and Windham were a great success in the WWF, but Windham decided to move back to Florida, where Rotundo later joined him.

Their reunion didn't last long, however, as Rotundo soon went back to the WWF. Shortly after, Spivey signed with the WWF, teamed up with Rotundo, and a new U.S. Express was born.

Although the two have parted ways, Rotundo and Windham remain friends. How ironic, however, that Rotundo is now paired with the man whom his ex-partner discovered and trained. Trading off on their name, the new U.S. Express are calling themselves The American Express. While Windham insists that there was and is only one U.S. Express—Barry Windham and Mike Rotundo—Windham also insists that he harbors no bad feelings toward Spivey.

Despite this, one has to be intrigued by the possibility of a match between Barry Windham and Dan Spivey: the teacher vs. the former student, Rotundo's ex-partner vs. his current partner, an epic battle between two scientific wrestlers, which fascinated us and the four experts we asked to analyze this match and decide a possible outcome.

HEAD TO HEAD

MIKE ROTUNDO

Right off the bat, I might as well say that I'm not too crazy about answering this question. Barry is still a very good friend of mine. As for Danny, well, we're doing pretty well together and I wouldn't want to break up the chemistry. I usually shoot straight from the hip, but in this case, I think I'd serve the purpose better if I gave two scenarios: one in which Danny would win and the other in which Barry would win.

Barry is one of the finest wrestlers in the world. I don't think anybody would doubt that. He has tremendous strength and speed, and he has the rare ability to brawl it out or wrestle scientifically. Barry isn't as big as Danny, but he has much more experience and, I think, a wider range of abilities. Experience is the key, though, because Barry still knows how to get out of certain situations and he really has the killer instinct. He gets that from his father. And that bulldog headlock of his is deadly.

Danny, of course, learned everything he knows from Barry. He's a little younger than Barry, so he still has that youthful enthusiasm, which could be a big key. There's probably not another man in the world who has wrestled Barry and Danny as much as I have—in practice, of course—and the first time I met Danny, I was very surprised. The guy has tremendous ability, and I wouldn't have taken him on as a partner if he didn't. I was especially impressed by the way he used his size. He's a tall man, but he isn't awkward like you'd expect.

I hope it never happens. In fact, I'm sure it will never happen—Barry isn't planning on leaving Florida and I don't think Danny has made plans to leave the WWF. But you're right. It would be a great match and I wouldn't be surprised if it ended up in a draw.

Mike Rotundo teamed with Barry Windham to win the WWF World tag team belts twice in the space of five months in 1985.

GORDON SOLIE

This is one match I would love to see because of the incidentals involved between two wrestlers of rather strikingly similar ability and physical appearance, although, of course, there are some differences between the two which we will deal with during the course of this dissertation.

I have gotten to know Barry Windham quite well as a result of my announcing duties with Buddy Colt on *Championship Wrestling From Florida* and I have always been impressed by his dedication and ring savvy. Young Windham gets in that ring and his ability to work over and weaken the various muscular regions of his opponent's body is virtually unparalleled in the world of professional sports, wrestling in particular.

Mr. Spivey, of course, does not hide the fact that he was discovered and learned almost everything he knows from Barry Windham. I had the pleasure of watching these two men work together and Mr. Spivey seemed to be a very good pupil. He'd take in everything Barry taught, which was a real tribute to Barry, since at the time he had only been in the sport for about five years as a pro.

I know that there have been many cases in sports of a former student coming back to defeat his ex-teacher, but I don't that would happen here. When we speak about Barry Windham, we're talking about one of the exemplary wrestlers in the continental United States, if not the entire world. In the end, Windham's vast experience, speed, and ever-improving skills would wear down Spivey, and I think he'd pin him after about 25 minutes.

Gordon Solie, the dean of wrestling announcers, can currently be seen hosting "Championship Wrestling From Florida" and "Continental Championship Wrestling."

J.J. DILLON

I'm amazed that you would even think of asking for my input on a proposed match between two men with such startlingly little ability. What you have presented me with would classify as little more than a preliminary match on any respectable wrestling card.

However, I am a tolerant person and I am impressed that you were able to recognize my vast knowledge of wrestling and ask me to participate in this venture. Therefore, I will comply with your request.

The match in question involves Barry Windham, whom I personally had the pleasure to watch some years back get publicly embarrassed by Ron Bass. On the date in question, Bass saddled up Mr. Windham and rode him around the ring, much in the way a man would ride a burro. From what I can tell, Windham has not progressed much from that time.

As for Spivey, from what I understand, he learned everything he knows from Windham, so I guess that says all we need to know. I also know that Spivey has teamed up with Mike Rotundo in the WWF and they have yet to win the tag team championship. Since I think little of the current tag team competition in that area, this does not speak well for Spivey's ability.

The match itself would be a fiasco, a boring display of unimaginative scientific techniques that would end with one of the wrestlers falling to the mat from exhaustion and the other collapsing on top for the pin. Since Windham developed a little stamina from his days of galloping around as Ron Bass' jackass, I would give him a slight edge.

J.J. Dillon is the manager of Tully Blanchard. He was voted Manager of the Year in 1982 and 1983, one of only two men to have achieved that that honor two years in a row.

SCOTT HALL

You might as well have asked me to analyze a match between my two brothers. That's how much Barry Windham and Dan Spivey have meant to my wrestling career. There aren't two guys in the world who have had more influence on my life. For one, Barry convinced me to leave basketball and give wrestling a try. Then Barry took me under his wing and gave me every available minute of his time. My debt to him can never be paid.

Spivey, of course, was Eagle when we teamed up as The American Starship and I was Coyote. Though we were both trained by Barry, we both had different interpretations of his instruction. There are subtle, but important, differences in our styles. Still, we made a great team, I thought, and when we broke up, we were still best of friends.

Now you're asking me to analyze a fictitious match between Barry and Danny, and I'll tell you, it's real tough. I guess the first step would be for me to decide how I'd do against Barry, and I think I'd stand a pretty good chance. In fact, I've been facing some pretty tough competition and winning the AWA tag belts with Curt [Hennig] has definitely made me a better wrestler.

I think I'd beat Barry, and I think Danny would, too. You see, Barry knows his own style, and although he's constantly improving, he's stuck within that framework. Danny, and me, too, were born with our own styles, then we were taught Barry's style, and we've both built off that. Danny is a more versatile wrestler than Barry and he also has that slight size advantage. This would be an outstanding scientific match, and you might even see a little good natured, friendly brawling going on. It would be Danny, by pinfall, and it could last a good hour.

Scott Hall, the AWA's number four contender, was trained by Barry Windham and is a former tag team partner of Dan Spivey's.

MISSY HYATT'S GUIDE TO THE UWF

WRESTLING USA: HOUSTON, TEXAS
Reprinted from Winter 1986 Wrestling 86

OVER THE PAST six months, the Universal Wrestling Federation has earned a reputation as being the roughest, toughest, and meanest area in the world of professional wrestling. Perhaps this has something to do with the invasion of The Fabulous Freebirds from the World Class area, or the return of President Bill Watts to the wrestling ring, or maybe the utter disrespect manager/wrestler Eddie Gilbert has shown for the rules of the game.

More likely, however, it has nothing to do with any of these men. In this case, the culprit is a woman, a young lady named Missy Hyatt who arrived in the UWF area in late June, ready and willing to do business. She wasted nary a minute and proved that Missy Hyatt is not, repeat, not the kind of girl you'd bring home to meet mama.

For one thing, the woman is a blonde bombshell. Make no mistake about it, Missy Hyatt is the kind of girl men dream about while they're away at sea, with her movie starlet face, wavy blonde hair, bright baby blues, and hourglass figure. When she enters the ring wearing a tight black pair of leather pants and a skimpy, low cut, white, see-through (enough already!) tank top, you can sense the increased heart rate of the men in the audience. Face it, guys, Missy fits the rulebreaker's mode, but are there any of you out there that can really say you hate her? C'mon, men, stand up!

Hyatt has associated herself with some of the most controversial men in the UWF: Terry Gordy, Michael Hayes, Buddy Roberts, Eddie Gilbert, John Tatum, Jack Victory, etc. For months, she's been involved in a heated feud with Dark Journey and has publicly vowed to drive her out of the area.

In reality, it would be hard to find a feud in the UWF that isn't connected, in some way, to Missy Hyatt. Because of this, and other factors, the popularity of the UWF is rapidly growing. In some circles, it's recognized as the third-most influential wrestling federation in the country (behind the NWA and WWF). Still, many people are unfamiliar with this area, so the editors of ***Wrestling 86*** *asked Missy Hyatt to author a guide to the Universal Wrestling Federation. She readily agreed and what follows is Missy Hyatt's comprehensive, somewhat biased, completely unedited, guide.*

By Missy Hyatt

WHEN THE PEOPLE from *Wrestling 86* asked me to write this guide to the UWF, I got so excited that I went right out and bought a new teeny string bikini, lots of bathing bubbles, and a big bottle of champagne. *Oooh!* I was so excited, I had Johnny [Tatum] take me out to dinner to celebrate and we had the most wonderful evening.

I think I should start off by telling y'all that John Tatum is the hottest thing in the UWF, professionally speaking, naturally. Now, I'm not saying that his big, hard body and rippling muscles don't turn me on, but as a wrestler, he's really tops.

Now, just for those of y'all who aren't familiar with it, the Universal Wrestling Federation used to be known as the Mid-South area. A wild-haired freak named Hacksaw Jim Duggan (who I think is one of the ugliest men alive) was the champion of Mid-South, but then they decided to change the name to UWF and hold a tournament over in Houston to pick a new champ.

All the big guys were there, Jack [Victory], The Blade Runners, Kamala, The Freebirds, Duggan, [Ted] DiBiase. Johnny and I weren't in the UWF yet, but we were based down in Texas and decided to go see it. Well, it was incredibly exciting, and in the finals Terry Gordy pinned Duggan to win the first UWF heavyweight title.

A few weeks after that, John and I signed a contract to come to the

With an impressive roster of wrestlers that includes many of the sport's most rugged athletes, the Universal Wrestling Federation has become the fastest growing area in the sport. But it's a woman who has drawn most of the attention. In this exclusive article for *Wrestling 86*, Missy Hyatt provides an in-depth guide to the UWF

Above left: As expected, Missy Hyatt and John Tatum joined forces with their longtime friend Jack Victory (far left) when they arrived in the UWF. Above right: Not expected, however, was the agreement Hyatt made with Eddie Gilbert, who manages and holds the UWF tag team title with Blade Runner Sting.

UWF, and from what I hear it hasn't been the same since then. Actually, from what I can tell, things were pretty wild before that. The Freebirds, that's Terry Gordy, Michael Hayes, and Buddy Roberts, signed this $1 million contract—one million dollars, imagine that!—to come to the UWF and they immediately started making things happen.

Anyway, I can tell that I'm starting to get away from the subject. You see, I'm not really a writer, so the editors of *Wrestling 86* realized this and sent me a list of suggestions of what I should write about. They said that I should write a little thing about all the main people in the UWF, so that's what I'm gonna do. Here goes!

EDDIE GILBERT: Eddie is a managerial genius, and if you ask me, the best manager in the world. His organization is called Hot Stuff International and mine is called Hyatt Incorporated, so recently, we decided to join forces. I've always said that bigger is better, you know! Eddie managed The Blade Runners and Kortsia Korchenko, but, you see, Eddie got into this little spat with Bill Watts. He's the president of the UWF, but I'll get to him later. Anyway, Rock, he's one of The Blade Runners, and Korchenko, decided that they couldn't get a fair shake around here as long as Watts was president, so they decided to take off. Eddie decided to wrestle again and he made a tag team with Sting, the other Blade Runner. Well, you'll never believe what happened. This makeshift tag team got in that ring and beat the stuffin's out of The Fantastics for the UWF tag team championship. With a bit a help from yours truly, of course.

THE FREEBIRDS: I told you before who they are. Terry is still the champion and Michael and Buddy do most of the tag team wrestling, although Terry still gets involved sometimes. They used to be six-man champs in the World Class. The Freebirds are also having this feud with Watts. Things aren't going so well right now, but I have a feeling that they're about to change. Old man Watts can't keep going for long. Anyway, I've become really good friends will all three of these boys and let me tell ya, honey, they're the bitchinest partyers I've ever known. They can make a case of Jack Daniels disappear in no time at all. They're pretty good at making other things disappear, too, but that's a story for another day.

DARK JOURNEY: I was gonna ignore her, but the guys at *86* insisted that I be fair, so I'll keep it short. The

Hyatt does not think much of Dark Journey or the wrestler Dark Journey brought in to battle Missy's men, Missing Link.

sooner that prissy pig gets out of the UWF, the better. She thinks she can take over the UWF, but the only wrestler who can stand her is The Missing Link, so how the heck is she gonna do that? Personally, I think she's gone batty. By the way, I got a funny story about Dark Urinary. The other day, Michael Hayes decided to show everybody the way a real man acts, so he climbed into the ring and planted this big, long kiss on Dark Urinary's lips. Well, it sure looked to me like she enjoyed it, but then she remembered what a bitch she is, hauled back, and slapped Michael in the face. Everybody laughed, but if you ask me, Dark Urinary was exposed for the kind of woman she is. I intend to have her out of here in no time at all.

BILL WATTS: Mr. President—an old, fat, over-the-hill, senile, thieving . . . Boy, I could go on forever, but you know what I'm talking about. This guy's always rattlin' and tattlin' and runnin' off at the mouth about this and that and all this crap about defending his country, but he don't do nothin' anyway. What kind of president gets into the ring and wrestles the men he's supposed to be in charge of? It just don't seem fair to me. He's feuding with half the guys in this area, then he turns around and tries to act like he's president. I can guarantee you that me and my men will teach him a lesson but good.

THE FANTASTICS: Bobby Fulton and Tommy Rogers are just a bunch of pretty boys, and nothing pleased me more than watching The Sheepherders (they used to be champs, but they're gone now) and Jack rake their pretty little faces across a barbed wire fence. All these teenybopper girls always shout, "Oh Bobby! Oh Tommy! We love you! You're our favorites! We have your picture on the wall!" It turns my stomach to see women acting this way. I couldn't believe that these guys were tag team champs, but Eddie and Sting took care of that. Now, instead of being pretty boys, they're pretty boy has-beens.

HACKSAW DUGGAN, TERRY TAYLOR, STEVE WILLIAMS, TED DIBIASE: The scum of the earth all gets lumped together in my book. If you ask me, wrestling is a man's sport, for real men with courage and strength and even a little bit of sex appeal. That never hurt no one, did it? Hee hee! Well, these four are the poorest excuses for men I've ever known. Hacksaw, for instance, suffered this little injury before the finals of the UWF tournament and acted like he was about to die. Taylor has been wrestling in tag teams with Watts, so that's all you need to know about him. Williams calls himself Dr. Death. That's a joke! He must be talking about his breath! And DiBiase! Here's a funny story. Back in July, Terry Gordy was kicking DiBiase's butt, and then, just for fun, Michael and Buddy came into the ring. Well, they're just doing a little three-on-one, nothing wrong with that, and Dr. Breath runs into the ring. So, they decide to have a little fun with Williams, and Gordy gives him a piledriver, and they had to take Williams away and put him into traction. You should have seen DiBiase! The guy was practically crying, he was so upset. Ya see, a bunch of years ago, The Freebirds did the same thing to DiBiase. Now, all they have to do is get Duggan and Taylor, but that shouldn't be a problem.

ONE MAN GANG: Eddie Gilbert and I are really proud of OMG, as we call him, and we'd love to have him join us, but right now he's pretty well tied up with Skandor Akbar's Devastation Inc. These two did a real number on Duggan the other day and it was the greatest thing I've ever seen. Anyway, OMG is a pretty big guy, the biggest in the UWF from what I

(Continued on page 63)

Full-time UWF President and part-time wrestler Bill Watts locks up in a test of strength with Sting. Missy Hyatt does not understand how Watts can wrestle and still objectively govern the federation. Watts has become the primary target of UWF rulebreakers.

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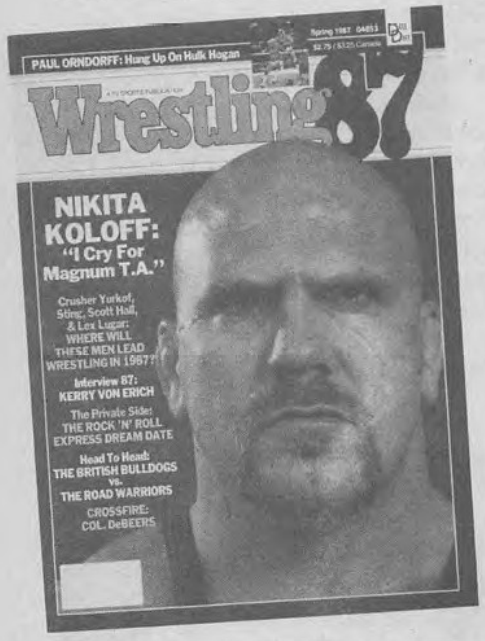

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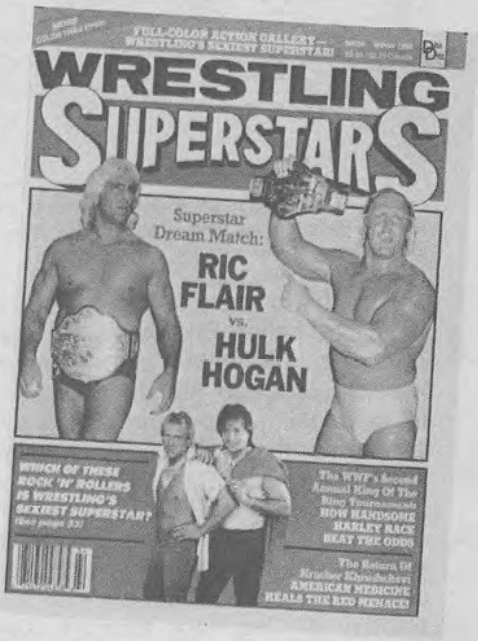

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Missy Hyatt

(Continued from page 61)

know, and you just don't wanna mess around with him. From what I've heard, Akbar is bringing in a masked man to join his stable, and that should be pretty wild!

JACK VICTORY: Besides having a terrific body, Jack is really a hot tootin' wrestler. He teams up with John occasionally and I just have this little feelin' that Jack and John are gonna win the tag team belts pretty soon. Not to take anything away from Eddie and Sting, but that's just the way I feel. Jack likes to get rowdy and can he make things happen! That's one thing Jack and I have in common, but there's one other big thing: We both hate Dark Journey.

THE MISSING LINK: This beast is the sub-human that Dark Journey brought in to take care of her business. I'll never forget the day Dark Journey announced that The Missing Link was coming here. She climbed into the ring, grabbed that microphone, and everybody's waiting for this big announcement, and in comes The Missing Link. I almost died laughing. I'll tell ya this, she better come up with something better than The Missing Link if she doesn't wanna be run out of town.

RICK STEINER: *Ooh!* Ricky is such a cutie. If I didn't have Johnny, I'd go right for him. He's 250 pounds of solid muscle and he really knows how to move. Eddie signed him not too long ago, and now he's under both our management. Baby, I could teach Ricky a few things about love, but listen, if I say anything else 'bout him, I'm just gonna get myself in trouble.

MISSY HYATT: That's me! I figured I'd save the best for last. She's gorgeous, and smart, and sexy, and all the guys say she's built like a brick outhouse, or somethin' like that, and before long, everybody's gonna stop and say, "Ya know who that is? That's Missy Hyatt and she's the queen of the UWF." And you know what? I got the perfect way to prove it. The UWF and *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* are getting together to organize this tournament, and from what I hear, it's gonna start in late October. You'll want to keep your ears open for details. Well, I just know that one of my boys is gonna bring me home that trophy. They'll all do anything for li'l ol' Missy. Just anything! ☐

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DRESSING ROOM

(Continued from page 10)

the ring. Anybody who doubts what I say either hasn't been a wrestling fan very long or has never plopped down $3 for a back issue of a wrestling magazine. In a sport where changes of attitude are commonplace, Roddy Piper has to lead the league. He's made at least two switches in every area he's ever wrestled. You could draw a line from Maine to Oregon with the scars he has put in people's backs with his dagger.

I believe in giving people a second and third chance, but Roddy Piper is into numbers that my desk calculator can't register. Now, the pied Piper isn't trying to fool anybody, and he's still got a line of fools willing to follow him. I guess you can't stop people from believing what they want to believe. The fans want to like Roddy Piper because they enjoy the way he insults people and figure it would be more fun to watch him insult the wrestlers they don't like. "He's making fun of Adonis' flower-covered microphone! What a great guy! He tearing into Orton's pink cowboy hat! Man, let's write to *PWI* and recommend him for number one in the Most Popular ratings!"

My only hope is that the wrestlers who are putting their bodies on the line for Piper in tag team matches are smarter than those kind of fans. Hulk Hogan trusted Paul Orndorff, got scorched, and vowed to never trust anybody again. Weeks later he was in the ring with Piper. Hogan is aware of the way Piper still feels about him and he's being cautious.

If he lets his guard down, though, it could be the most serious mistake he ever made in his life. If the fans get burned by Roddy Piper, they'll be disappointed. If Hulk Hogan gets burned by Roddy Piper, it could cost him his career. ☐

LEX LUGAR

(Continued from page 49)

Lugar almost seems bored with his dominance over Kendo Nagasaki. He thirsts for the stiffer competition, but he must travel to find it.

world. And if he doesn't get out there soon, his own abilities will rust like a car left out in a Florida hurricane."

Lugar himself is puzzled about the uproar his career strategies have raised. "When Flair came down to Florida," he said, "everyone told me not to wrestle him, that I was taking too much of a chance. Even Flair took me aside before the match and warned me that I was making the same mistake a lot of young rookies were making. He told me a kid my age had no business fighting for a world championship.

"I could tell he was trying to psych me out. I threw him out of my dressing room. Then I went out and kicked his can across the ring.

"After I was brought back to my dressing room after taking him apart in the first fall, those same people came over to me and said, 'Knew you could do it Lex,' and 'Good job, Lex.' What a bunch of butt-kicking morons.

"I know what's right for Lex Lugar. Don't worry about me. When the time is right, I'll be at center stage with that belt around my waist. Not a minute too soon or a minute too late. And that you can bet on." □

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MISTY BLUE SIMMES

(Continued from page 33)

Simmes spars with her tag team partner, Kat LeRoux, on her days off. Misty Blue uses the airplane spin as one of her finishing maneuvers (above) and uses her powerful—yet shapely—legs to flip LeRoux (right).

Women's champion. She uses superlatives like "greatest event" and "sensational experience" and "unbelievably flattered" when speaking of her championship appointment.

But listen beyond her happiness and pride in her new title and you hear a woman who has plans—big plans—for bringing women's wrestling back to the forefront of the sport. She knows that she's a new commodity on the wrestling scene, and she's anxious to prove that she is indeed more substance than style. And the only way to do that, she'll tell you, is in the ring.

"Wrestling, that's where it matters," she says. "You can have all the looks in the world, all the rock stars swarming around you, and 50 hours of TV time each week. But you can't fool the fans: If you can't back it up inside that ring, you'll be gone before your mascara has a chance to dry. As far as I'm concerned, I have the talent to back it up in the ring. I'm ready. And I hope the fans are ready, too, because women's wrestling is back, and better than ever!"

Certainly women's wrestling is in poor shape right now. Fabulous Moolah seldom defends her WWF title, Wendi Richter is out of the mainstream, Sherri Martel is drawing only marginal support in the AWA, and most of the other women in the sport are relegated to minor supporting role status on various federations' undercards.

Misty is out to change all that. She's looking to reignite the women's side of the sport with a sense of excitement and thrills in a way that, as she says, stresses substance over style, skill over sizzle. She wants to assure that women's wrestling is regarded with the same respect as the men.

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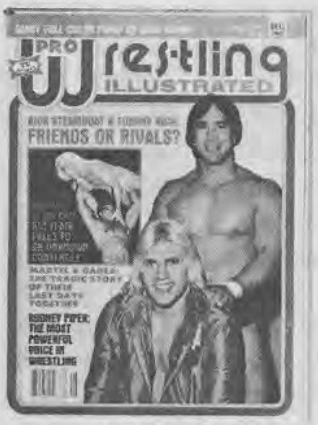

AUGUST 1982

August 1982/COLOR PINUP: Dino Bravo. **Steamboat & Rich**, Andre, Martel, Piper, Blassie.

October 1982/COLOR PINUP: Jerry Lawler. **Ric Flair**, Rhodes, Graham, Race, Funk Jr.

December 1982/COLOR PINUP: Rick Martel. **Hulk Hogan**, Von Erich, Orndorff, Albano.

January 1983/COLOR PINUP: Ken Patera. **Rick Steamboat**, Rich, Brody, Sullivan, Backlund.

February 1983/COLOR PINUP: Ivan Putski. **Rhodes vs. Garvin**, Snuka, Super Destroyer, Bockwinkel, Funk.

April 1983/COLOR PINUP: Superstar Graham. **Mil Mascaras**, Valentine, Orndorff, Hart.

June 1983/COLOR PINUP: Cowboy Bob Orton. **Rick Martel**, Von Erich, Slaughter, Muraco.

July 1983/COLOR PINUP: Ivan Koloff. **Tommy Rich**, Patera, Von Erich, Snuka.

August 1983/COLOR PINUP: Larry Zbyszko. **Roddy Piper**, Sullivan, Zbyszko, Von Erich, Wrestling II.

October 1983/COLOR PINUP: Junkyard Dog. **Tommy Rich**, Johnson, Adonis, Rhodes, Piper.

November 1983/COLOR PINUP: Roddy Piper. **Harley Race**, Santana, Mascaras, Ellering, Valiant, Race.

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February 1984/COLOR PINUP: Jim Garvin & Sunshine. **Greg Valentine,** Super Destroyer, Race, Sawyer, Abdullah.

April 1984/COLOR PINUP: Rocky Johnson. **Ric Flair,** Hogan, Andre, Bundy.

May 1984/COLOR PINUP: Hacksaw Butch Reed. **Hulk Hogan,** Road Warriors, Fabulous Ones, Flair, Rotundo.

June 1984/COLOR PINUP: Dick Slater. **Ted DiBiase,** Wrestling II, Magnum T.A., Patera, Hogan.

JULY 1984

July 1984/COLOR PINUP: Paul Ellering. **Jimmy Valiant,** JYD, Fab Ones, Gagne, Windham.

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October 1984/COLOR PINUP: Billy Jack. **Kerry Von Erich,** Martel, Blanchard, Fabulous Blonds, Armstrong.

November 1984/COLOR PINUP: Rick Martel. **Sgt. Slaughter,** Von Erich, Road Warriors, Windham, Rotundo.

January 1985/COLOR PINUP: Tito Santana. **Road Warriors,** Billy Jack, Hayes, 1984 fan ballot.

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JUNE 1985

June 1985/COLOR PINUP: Barry Windham. **Dusty Rhodes,** Slaughter, Hogan, Von Erich, T.A.

July 1985/COLOR PINUP: Sgt. Slaughter. **Hogan vs. Piper,** Warriors, One Man Gang, T.A., Martel.

September 1985/COLOR PINUP: Junkyard Dog. **Magnum T.A,** Von Erich, Hogan, AWA scouting reports.

October 1985/COLOR PINUP: Chris Adams. **Rick Steamboat,** Warriors, Nikita, WWF scouting reports.

November 1985/COLOR PINUP: Randy Savage. **Ric Flair,** Slaughter, Steamboat, World Class scouting reports.

December 1985/COLOR PINUP: Jesse Ventura. **Great American Bash**, Von Erich, Orndorff, Williams & DiBiase.

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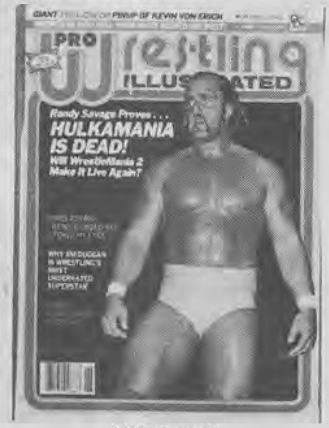

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December 1986/COLOR PINUP: Great American Bash. **Great American Bash,** Midnight Rockers, Von Erich, Windham.

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February 1987/COLOR PINUP: Savage & Elizabeth. **UWF Tournament,** T.A., Baby Doll, Hogan vs. Orndorff.

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PRESS CONFERENCE

(Continued from page 27)

would love to get on the field and swing the bat against Dwight Gooden. But I guess I'm going to have to settle for Rose and Somers.

PETER KING: That appears to be the case, although with your incredible athletic prowess, it's hard to believe that you wouldn't excel at any sport. During those months off after you left the WWF, did you ever consider another line of work?

SNUKA: Believe me, brother, those were trying times for the Superfly. I needed the peace and serenity of my home for a few months, but I was tormented by knowing that I would have to make a decision shortly. My family was very helpful, but finally I had to make a decision on my own. Jimmy Snuka is a professional wrestler; it is in his blood. To have done something else would have been to leave a part of myself behind, and that is not good for the soul.

SAKS: But when you returned to wrestling, it was in Hawaii and California. Why didn't you go back to the WWF, where you would have been welcomed instantly?

SNUKA: Ah, but one cannot spend his entire life backtracking and returning to where he is accepted. There were still many hard feelings in the WWF and I was not ready to go back to a place where I would be thrown into the turmoil. This was not right for me.

KING: And anyway, who wants to go back to a place where the head honcho is calling you a basket case?

SNUKA: That is not for me to discuss at this time.

APTER: So, in other words, you were looking to make a slow comeback.

SNUKA: I do not feel that I had to make a comeback, brother Bill, because I had never gone downhill. Recall that when I left the WWF, I was still one of the top contenders. Leaving was a personal decision. My return, not comeback, to wrestling was in Hawaii and California because those places offered me ... Ah, seventh inning stretch time, one of my favorite

Snuka finds himself double-teamed by Rose and Somers. "The Superfly" would like to find the right full-time partner to challenge and defeat the AWA World tag team champions.

parts of a ballgame.

SNUKA, APTER, KING, and SAKS (together with the Wrigley fans and Cubs' announcer Harry Caray) sing "Take Me Out To The Ballgame."

SAKS: This really is great. I should go to a game once in a while.

APTER: It's okay, but I much prefer a barbeque with the family. The smell of the burning coals, the food. *Umm!*

KING: Excuse me, guys, but it's the bottom of the seventh and we're running out of time. Let's get back to business. Jimmy, when you came to the AWA for WrestleRock '86, the crowd was with you right away. How did that make you feel?

SNUKA: **Well, Peter, I learned the hard way that the cheers of the fans are much sweeter to the ears than booing. I had some doubts about whether I wanted to wrestle in the AWA full time, but after hearing the reaction of the crowd, I didn't have any doubts.**

APTER: And how about now? Do you have any regrets about your decision?

SNUKA: **The AWA has treated me very well, and I have no complaints about that, but guys like [Col.] DeBeers and Rose and Somers really get my goat. I guess that's what it's all about, you know, one guy feuding against another, but there's no place in any sport, especially wrestling, for DeBeers' racial remarks. I'd like to twist his face in half.**

SAKS: From what I recall, DeBeers refused to wrestle you because he didn't want to get into the ring with a black man.

SNUKA: **And I'm not even black, I'm Polynesian, which made his remark even more ridiculous. People like DeBeers who judge people by their skin color are a menace. When he made that remark, I wanted to jump into the ring and defend the honor of all the black people in the world. Now I'm fighting their battle, too. DeBeers is a bad man.**

KING: Despite your anger with DeBeers, you seem most hung up about getting a shot at Nick Bockwinkel's title. Now, from what I can tell, you have nothing against Bockwinkel, so why are you so intent on defeating him?

SNUKA: **The belt, brother, the belt. It's what we all strive for, what we're all in this for in the first place. Nick Bockwinkel is a fine man, a different man from what I can tell. He has changed, just as I changed, and that is good. But he is the competition, the man with the AWA World title, and that's what I want. I realize that we're both popular with the fans, but my desire is one shot at the belt. That's all I ask.**

APTER: But I think it would be safe to say that you would settle for the tag belts.

SNUKA: **One does not settle for a world title, brother Bill, one works hard to accomplish that goal and revels in its achievement. Whether it's with Scott Hall, Curt Hennig, or Greg Gagne, I intend to beat Rose and Somers. I've worked hard for it. My mind and body is in peak condition, but it will take something more. I'm willing to give whatever it takes. Look at those guys out there on the field. The Cubs are 32 games behind, but they keep on trying. That's the only thing anybody has a right to ask for.**

SAKS: Make that 32½. The Mets won.

SNUKA: **Whatever, it doesn't make a difference. What matters is to try your hardest and be at peace with yourself. I had inner turmoil at one time, but I have achieved serenity. The Superfly has come to terms.** □

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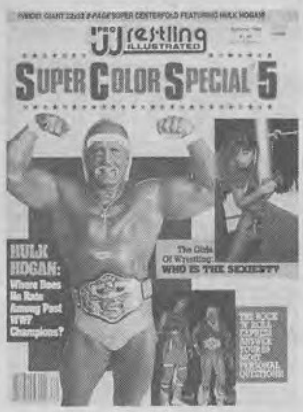

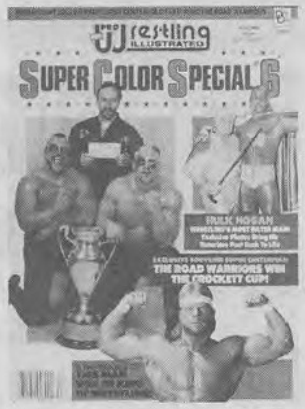

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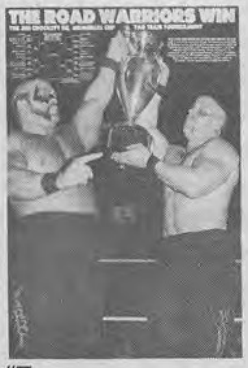

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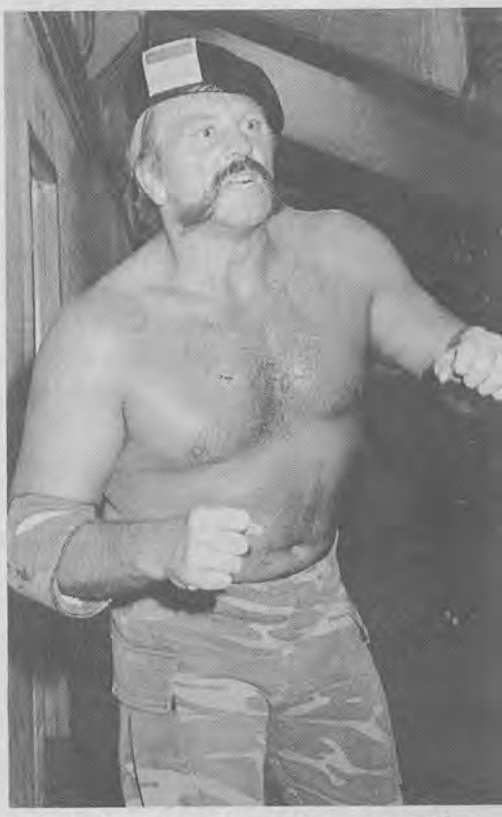
INTRODUCTION

(Continued from page 6)

wrestling in the World Class area, may now be known as Crusher Yurkof, but he's as vicious and destructive as ever—perhaps even more so!

There's no doubt that Col. DeBeers holds the most controversial and, to the minds of many,



Col. DeBeers has spread his message of apartheid in arenas throughout the AWA. The controversial South African is a prime target of Jimmy Snuka, who was injured by DeBeers.

the most repugnant opinions of anyone in the sport. This South African supporter of apartheid was the subject of a **"Q & A"** interview in the January 1987 issue of *The Wrestler* (page 22), which kicks off our interview section this issue. And DeBeers is also the subject of this issue's **"USA Update"** (page 8), in which the Colonel offers another dose of his offensive views.

The one man DeBeers finds most disgusting is Jimmy "Superfly" Snuka, who was the subject of a **"Press Conference"** (page 26) in the January 1987 *Pro*

Wrestling Illustrated. DeBeers recently attacked Snuka in Las Vegas with a face-first piledriver, sending Snuka to the hospital and driving him out of the sport for several months. Upon Snuka's return, you can be sure that he'll be gunning for the South African Colonel long before he looks to any AWA title shots.

In the December 1986 edition of *Inside Wrestling* we presented a **"Hotseat"** interview with Baby Doll (page 28). In it, she explained why she turned on Dusty Rhodes and allied herself with Ric Flair and The Four Horsemen. It wasn't a popular decision she made, but it was a decision in keeping with her opportunistic nature.

The first of our feauture stories this issue concerns the ever-changing state of women's wrestling, and many fans are looking to a new star on the women's wrestling horizon for positive changes. **"Misty Blue Simmes: Can She Save Women's Wrestling?"** (page 32), from the January 1987 edition of *The Wrestler,* takes a closeup look at one wom-

(Continued on page 72)

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INTRODUCTION

(Continued from page 71)

Hulk Hogan seems to be asking the crowd: "How else can I punish Paul Orndorff for you?" Their feud was the hottest in wrestling in 1986, and it was surprising because almost everyone thought Hogan and Orndorff had become good friends. Now, Orndorff is a top contender for Hogan's WWF World title.

an who might prove to be the best hope for the future of the sport where the women are concerned.

The future of the men's side of the sport, and a good chunk of the recent past, belongs to NWA World champion Ric Flair. In the December 1986 issue of *The Wrestler,* we examined **"Ric Flair's Fourth NWA Title Reign: Last Chance To Quiet The Critics!"** (page 34). Our conclusion: This will be the reign that makes or breaks Flair's place in the wrestling history books.

Over in the AWA, followers of the sport are calling the championship situation there a **"World Title Scandal! Why Is The AWA Protecting Nick Bockwinkel?"** (page 37). The December 1986 issue of *The Wrestler* asks an important question that AWA officials and commissioners probably feel is better left unasked.

And on the WWF world title scene, fans are thrilling to **"Hogan vs. Orndorff: Wrestling's Hottest Feud!"** (page 40). We examined that war in the February 1987 *Pro Wrestling Illustrated,* and as their war winds down and Hogan looks to other challengers, the story serves as a fitting postscript to what was voted 1986's Feud of the Year by the readers of *PWI.*

Down in the Florida area, there is no wrestler with greater popularity or potential than Lex Lugar. In the December 1986 *Inside Wrestling,* we said to **"Lex Lugar—It's Time To Leave The Sunshine State!"** (page 47). And

(Continued on page 74)

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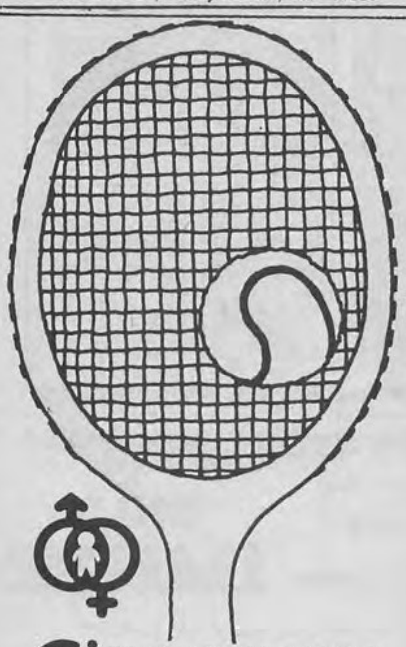

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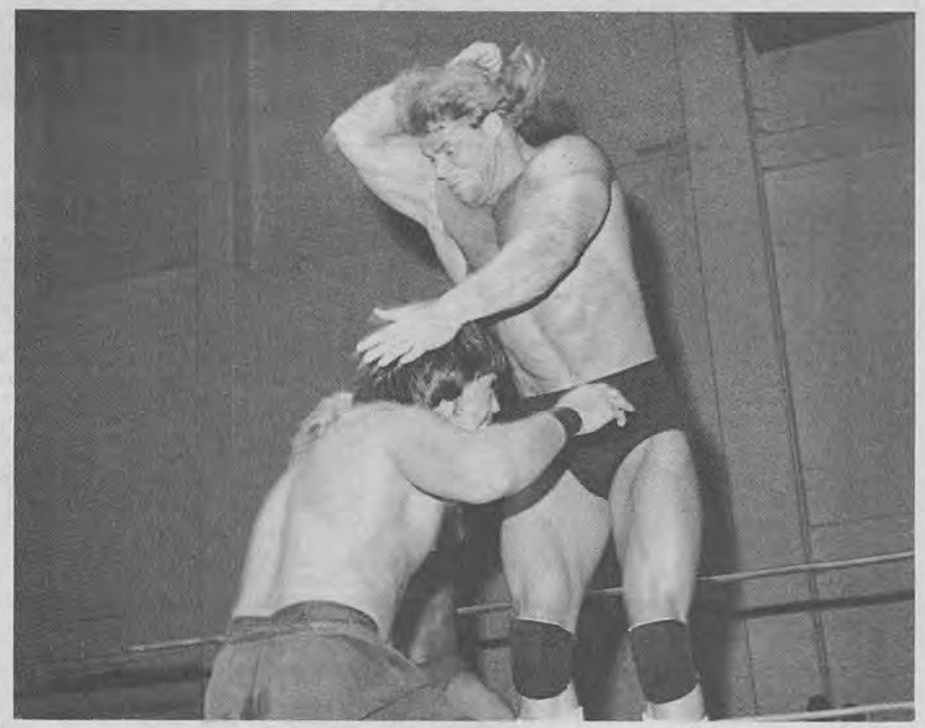

Lex Lugar, the most popular wrestler in Florida, brings down an elbowsmash on White Ninja. As 1986 Rookie of the Year, Lugar has lived up to the tremendous potential he exhibited very early in his career. He may be wrestling in other areas very soon.

perhaps he heard us; we understand that Lugar is currently entertaining offers from the three major promoters in the country.

In the Winter 1986 edition of *Wrestling Superstars,* we offered complete coverage of **"The WWF's Second Annual King Of The Ring tournament: How Handsome Harley Race Beat The Odds"** (page 50). Race's victory in this tournament no doubt helped bolster his claim as wrestling's "King," though we've received a lot of angry mail from Jerry Lawler fans vehemently disputing Race's claim!

When Barry Windham and Mike Rotundo teamed in the WWF, they won the World tag team belts on two occasions. But now Windham is gone from the WWF, replaced by Danny Spivey.

(Continued on page 76)

Dan Spivey drags Jim Neidhart into an unfriendly corner and tags off to his partner, Mike Rotundo. Many fans believed Spivey was merely a replacement for Barry Windham, the man who won two WWF World tag team titles with Rotundo.

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December 1981/Muraco-Morales, Patera, Steele, Andre.

March 1982/Valentine, Brisco-Funk, Steele, Flair, Hayes.

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May 1982/Rich-Flair, Backlund, Superstar, Dillon, Wrestling II.

June 1982/Tommy Rich, Jimmy Snuka, Wrestlers rate each other.

July 1982/Steamboat-Idol, Albano, Rhodes, Patera.

August 1982/Piper-Rich, Flair-Slater, Rhodes, Valentine, Bockwinkel.

October 1982/Funk-Abdullah, Orton, Kabuki, Von Erich.

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January 1983/Rich, McDaniel-Valentine, Patera, Brisco, Bockwinkel.

February 1983/Flair-Race, Morales-Rose, Patera, Bravo, Spoiler.

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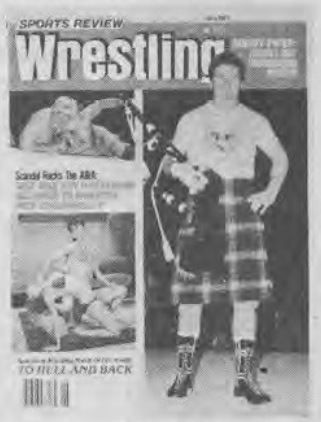

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June 1983/Piper, Bockwinkel-Patterson, Brody, Sullivan, Baba.

July 1983/Valiant-Humperdink, Martel, Hernandez, Murdoch, Armstrong.

October 1983/Martel-Valentine, Mulligan, Lawler, Von Erichs, Bruno.

November 1983/Andre-Mulligan, Kamala-Brody, Slater, Backlund.

December 1983/Windham-LeDuc, Santana, Sullivan, Garvin.

January 1984/Andre-Abdullah, Bockwinkel, Gilbert, Windham, Flair, Mosca.

February 1984/Rich-Sawyer, Idol-Hansen, Martel, Parsons, Von Erich.

March 1984/Starrcade '83, Closeups on Atlanta and Dallas cards.

April 1984/Von Erich-Gordy, Dillon & Nagasaki, Graham, DiBiase, Orndorff.

May 1984/LeDuc-Sawyer, Assassins, The Men Who Make Wrestling Fly!

June 1984/Windham-Flair, Gilbert, Sawyer, Bockwinkel, Tsuruta.

July 1984/Flair-Gordy, Duggan, Blanchard, Brisco, AWA tag tourny.

August 1984/Rich & Gilbert, Adams-Hayes, Von Erich, Faces Of Wrestling.

September 1984/Flair-Steamboat, Freebirds-Von Erichs—Special coverage of two big cards.

October 1984/Sullivan-Rhodes, Freebirds video, Atlas, Orange Bowl card.

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January 1985/Flair-McDaniel, Missing Link, Backlund, Fabulous Ones, *Pro Wrestling USA*, Valentine.

February 1985/Sullivan-Graham, Hernandez & Nicola Roberts, Bruno Jr., Steamboat, Warriors.

March 1985/Starrcade '84 featuring Flair, Rhodes, Steamboat, Koloffs, 1985 Datebook, Hayes, wrestling school.

April 1985/Von Erich-Blackwell, Haynes-Barr, Hart, Irwins, 1984 in Pictures, Blair.

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June 1985/Pro Wrestling U.S.A, Von Erich, Richter, Windham, Taylor.

July 1985/Von Erich, WrestleMania, bloodiest matches, Backlund, Snuka.

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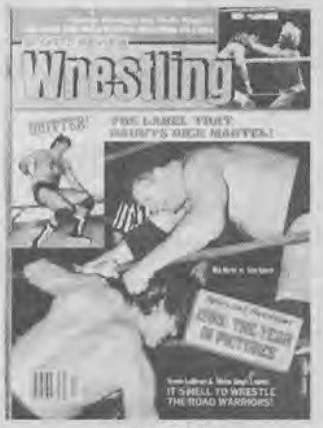
January 1986/Savage-Santana, Abdullah, Humongous, Von Raschke, Comiskey Park, Taylor.

February 1986/Junkyard Dog, Rude, Patrick, Garvin, Reed, Datebook.

March 1986/Starrcade '85, Ventura, Windham, Sunshine, Slaughter.



APRIL 1986

April 1986/Savage-Hogan, Martel-Hansen, 1985 in Pictures, Warriors, DiBiase.

May 1986/Sammartino, R&R Express, Sunshine-Hyatt, Slater, Devastating Holds, Hall & Hennig.

June 1986/Hogan-Muraco, Midnight Express, Freebirds, Battle of Belts II.

July 1986/Orndorff-Piper, Blanchard-T.A., Matches of '80s, Sheepherders, Bockwinkel, Bulldogs.

August 1986/Crockett Cup Tourny, Jake Roberts, Midnight Rockers, Von Erichs, Wrestling II.

September 1986/Bulldogs, Blanchard-Gibson, Lugar, Dundee, UWF tourny.

October 1986/Orndorff, Rude-Brody, Bash, Bockwinkel, Gordy, Adams.

November 1986/Andersons-R&R Express, Machine, Gordy, Managers.

December 1986/Machines, Fantastics, Warriors, WWF Muchnick Tourny.

January 1987/Russians, Hyatt-Dark Journey, WWF Top 50, Fab Ones.

February 1987/Road Warriors,Savage, Windham & Lugar, 1987 Datebook.

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INTRODUCTION

(Continued from page 74)

In the December 1986 *Pro Wrestling Illustrated,* we presented **"Barry Windham's Message To WWF Fans: 'Rotundo And Spivey Are *Not* The U.S. Express!'"** (page 53). Clearly the WWF brain trusts felt that Spivey looked similar enough to Windham that he would be a suitable replacement for the young lion. Is he really that similar? What would happen if Windham and Spivey wrestled each other? That question was answered in the Winter 1986 edition of *Wrestling 86* when we presented **"Head To Head: Barry Windham vs. Dan Spivey"** (page 56).

In 1986, the Mid-South area changed its name to the Universal Wrestling Federation. They expanded their horizons during the year and became more well-known than ever before. In the Winter 1986 *Wrestling 86,* for the benefit of some readers who may not have been completely familiar with all the stars of the UWF, we presented **"Missy Hyatt's Guide To The UWF"** (page 58). Of course, readers familiar with the UWF understood that Missy's analysis of the area was not precisely objective!

Our color pinups this month feature, from the World Class area, **Rick Steamboat** vs. **Zulu**; from the World Championship area, **Rick Morton** vs. **Ole Anderson**; from the UWF, **Ted DiBiase** vs. **Michael Hayes**; and from the WWF we present **Jake Roberts** vs. **Hillbilly Jim**.

Of course we've got our usual up-to-date **"Ratings Analysis"** (page 81) and **"Official Wrestling Ratings"** (page 82), plus two pages of your letters in **"Dateline USA"** (page 84).

It all adds up to a thick 88-page package that should help you start your new year off on the

Followers of the UWF are familiar with Missy Hyatt (above), the rulebreaking valet, and Steve "Dr. Death" Williams, who slams Terry Gordy on the concrete (below).

right foot. And we'll be back in another three months with the Summer 1987 edition of *Wrestling USA.*

Until then—happy reading! □

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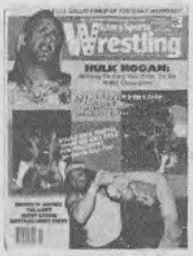

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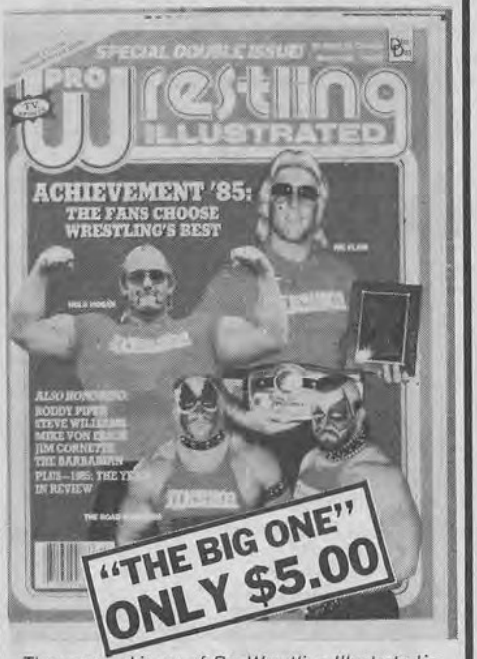

The year-end issue of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* is always the most anticipated wrestling magazine of the year. And the 1985 year-end issue (March 1986 cover date) was the best one we ever published. At 92 pages, it was our biggest magazine ever and, in addition to the year-end features *PWI* readers have come to expect, it contained eight full-color pages. We have limited supplies of this newsstand sell-out, so don't be disappointed twice. Order your copy today. Only $5.00.

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KING'S COURT

(Continued from page 12)

Low Low. So how do the fans react to this? Why, they laughed and applauded. Talk about your double standard.

Look, I'm not condoning Bobby Heenan here. The man is a despicable dirt bag. But if Andre is suspended, he should stay suspended. And McMahon, who runs both the WWF and Tunney, shouldn't act as if this is a cute little trick by Andre. Could you imagine what would happen if baseball commissioner Peter Ueberroth suspended the New York Mets' Keith Hernandez, and then, a few days later, the Mets announce their new first baseman is a masked man named Super First Baseman? A masked man who looks and talks just like Keith Hernandez? Ueberroth would suspend him for life and the Mets would be thrown out of the National League. Even if they called in a special witness named Bruno Sammartino, who claimed that he thought Super First Baseman was really Baba the Giant.

Second case in point: Magnum T.A. I like Magnum. I think he is usually one of the classiest men in wrestling. But he was wrong to haul off and hit NWA President Bob Geigel, no matter how mad he was. For this action, Geigel stripped Magnum of the U.S. title. T.A. was angry, but he took it like a man. (By the way, I feel that Geigel was too quick with his decision and reacted more out of a personal vendetta than presidential policies. But that's another column.) What bothered me was how some of the fans took it. They bombarded the NWA and us with literally thousands of pieces of mail, 90 percent of them saying Magnum was right. Magnum wasn't right, folks. You don't hit presidents, whether they be of the NWA or of the United States.

Magnum T.A., ordinarily one of the classiest men in wrestling, was wrong in hitting NWA President Bob Geigel.

Third case in point: Hulk Hogan. Hogan is held up as a standard for little kids to follow. Yet his ring demeanor is no better than the worst rulebreaker. Hogan kicks and punches repeatedly, uses eye-gouges the way Adrian Adnois uses eye-shadow, and rarely employs anything close to a scientific hold. Yet kiddies are sleeping on Hulk Hogan bedsheets while wearing their Hulk Hogan pajamas. I shudder to think what these little monsters will be like about 15 years from now.

Last case in point: Ric Flair. Flair is considered a rulebreaker, and most fans hate his guts. After Flair lost his NWA title to Dusty Rhodes, reporters expected the Nature Boy to offer excuses and whine about the decision. In his dressing room, Flair merely said "I lost to a better man tonight. He deserved to win."

Does anyone know where I can buy a pair of Ric Flair pajamas? □

MEN — WOMEN

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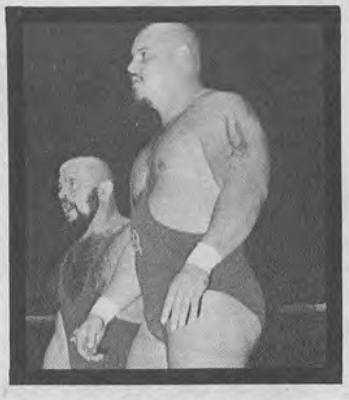
THE Wrestler



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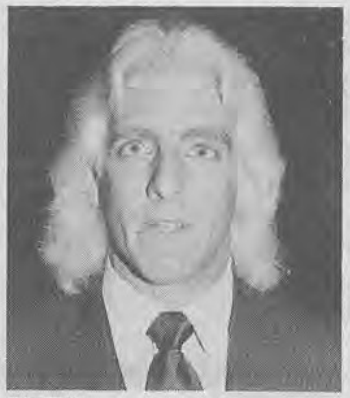
RATINGS ANALYSIS

This column will tell fans how we go about rating more than 150 wrestlers in 14 different categories. It is a behind-the-scenes look at the most important—and respected—ratings system in the sport. This column is vital reading for all wrestling fans.

Same time, this year. One year can make quite a difference, especially in an ever-changing sport such as professional wrestling, where titles constantly change hands and wrestlers move from one area to another. But that's one of the great things about this great sport; you never know what's going to happen or when.

Because of the ever-changing nature of wrestling, we thought it would be interesting to look back at the Top 10 ratings in the Spring 1985 issue of *Wrestling USA* and see how they compare to this issue's ratings, just to see what happened and why.



Ric Flair

Some things just don't change. Last year at this time, **Ric Flair** was NWA World champion and number one in the Top 10. This year, he's still NWA World champion and number one. Flair lost that ranking for two weeks when he lost his World title to Dusty Rhodes last summer, but Flair's staying power is indeed remarkable. Even more of a testament to Flair's skill is the fact he remains number one in the face of a personal life and out-of-the-ring attacks that often win him the hatred of the fans.

Whatever happened to **Rick Martel?** The popular star was AWA World champion and number two in the Top 10 at this time last year, but now he's nowhere to be found in *any* of our ratings. Martel spent most of the year wrestling in Canada and just recently signed with the WWF, where he formed the Can-Am Connection with **Tom Zenk.** Can Martel return to his 1985 prominence, or will he get lost in the WWF shuffle? That's one of the big questions of 1987.

WWF World champion **Hulk Hogan** was a perennial in 1986. The 302-pound superstar from Venice Beach was never seriously challenged for the title and moved up one spot, to number two, from this time last year. Hogan's dominance over his WWF rivals became more apparent as the year went on, and for one month in some of our sister publications he even replaced Flair as number one.

Dusty Rhodes had an up and down year. He was NWA TV champion and number four in the Top 10 last year. When he defeated Flair for the World championship, he went as high as number two, but since then it's been all downhill. He quickly succumbed to Flair's challenge, and recently lost his TV title to **Tully Blanchard** in a first blood match at Starrcade '86. Now, he's number eight.

Tito Santana was WWF Intercontinental champ and number five last year. He lost the I-C title to **Randy Savage** at Boston Garden in February and has been fighting, thus far in vain, to regain the belt. Santana is slowly sliding in the WWF ratings and he's gone from our Top 10.

We all know what happened to **Magnum T.A.**, who had the toughest year of all. Things started off well, as he won the U.S. championship from Blanchard. It was all downhill from there. He lost the title to **Nikita Koloff** after a grueling, summer-long, best-of-seven series, but then suffered the worst blow of all. After getting seriously injured in an automobile accident, his career is still in doubt. Naturally, he's no longer in the Top 10.

Although without a title, **Randy Savage** was number seven at this time last year. He solved that problem when he won the Intercontinental title, and has held it ever since. Savage has impressively disposed of all comers and has solidified his hold on the title. He moved up four spots from last year to number three.

Nikita Koloff, one of the promising young stars of 1985, was also without a singles title but rated at number eight last year. Many observers felt that Nikita was knocking at the door and ready to take the sport by storm in 1986. He didn't disappoint. What a summer this 275-pound native of Moscow, Russia had! Nikita defeated **Magnum T.A.** in the U.S. title series, then defeated **Wahoo McDaniel** in the U.S. title-National title unification match. He's now number four and the top contender for Flair's title.

Butch Reed's appearance in the year-end Top 10 ratings was his only appearance of 1985. By the following month he was gone. Not long ago, he resurfaced in the WWF as a blond. And **Kerry Von Erich** is another member of the 1985 year-end Top 10 who suffered a career-threatening injury in 1986. He was seriously injured in a motorcycle accident last June and is still working toward making a comeback.

That leaves us with five men in this year's Top 10 who weren't there last year. **Lex Luger** had only been wrestling for a month at this time last year but was already Southern champion. He's still Southern champion, and in the past year clearly established his dominance in the Florida area. He's number five and moving up.

Kevin Von Erich brought honor back to the World Class title when he defeated **Black Bart** on Columbus Day in Dallas. Kevin has successfully defended the belt ever since and is one reason behind the recent resurgence of the World Class area; he is rated sixth. After AWA World champion Stan Hansen failed to show for a title defense on June 29 in Denver, officials handed the belt over to **Nick Bockwinkel.** This caused an uproar, but Bockwinkel still has the belt and a spot at number seven.

In terms of ratings, the best move **Paul Orndorff** made in 1986 was turning on former friend and tag team partner Hulk Hogan. Despite losing most of the matches, Orndorff was impressive in a series of title shots against Hogan and is number nine. Then there's **Jake Roberts**, who rode his pet snake **Damien** to new respect in the WWF and a number 10 ranking overall.

What will next year bring? Who knows? How about some predictions? Send all mail to "Ratings Analysis" c/o *Wrestling USA;* Box 48; Rockville Centre, NY, 11571. □

WRESTLING USA

Top 10 and Tag Team ratings, as well as top 10 Women ratings, are based on won-lost records for the past month, quality of opposition, and inherent skill of each wrestler or team. These ratings are compiled by the magazine's editorial board.

Dusty Rhodes

TOP10

1—RIC FLAIR
NWA World champion
243, Minneapolis, MN

2—HULK HOGAN
WWF World champion
302, Venice Beach, CA

3—RANDY SAVAGE
WWF Intercontinental champion
245, Sarasota, FL

4—NIKITA KOLOFF
U.S. heavyweight champion
275, Moscow, Russia

5—LEX LUGER
Southern champion
268, Chicago, IL

6—KEVIN VON ERICH
World Class champion
239, Denton, TX

7—NICK BOCKWINKEL
AWA World champion
245, Beverly Hills, CA

8—DUSTY RHODES
No. 2 contender: NWA title
302, Austin, TX

9—PAUL ORNDORFF
No. 1 contender: WWF title
253, Brandon, FL

10—JAKE ROBERTS
No. 1 contender: WWF I-C title
246, Stone Mountain, GA

TAG TEAMS

1—THE ROAD WARRIORS
No. 2 contenders to NWA tag team title
Combined weight: 567 pounds

2—THE ROCK 'N' ROLL EXPRESS
No. 1 contenders to NWA tag team title
Combined weight: 453 pounds

3—THE BRITISH BULLDOGS
WWF World tag team champions
Combined weight: 461 pounds

4—DUSTY RHODES & NIKITA KOLOFF
No. 3 contenders to NWA tag team title
Combined weight: 577 pounds

5—THE FANTASTICS
No. 1 contenders to UWF tag team title
Combined weight: 462 pounds

6—MANNY FERNANDEZ & RICK RUDE
NWA World tag team champions
Combined weight: 487 pounds

7—RAYMOND & JACQUES ROUGEAU
No. 3 contenders to WWF tag team title
Combined weight: 478 pounds

8—THE MIDNIGHT ROCKERS
No. 1 contenders to AWA tag team title
Combined weight: 461 pounds

9—THE FABULOUS ONES
U.S. tag team champions (Florida)
Combined weight: 479 pounds

10—PLAYBOY BUDDY ROSE & DOUG SOMERS
AWA World tag team champions
Combined weight: 515 pounds

NWA, AWA, and WWF ratings, in addition to regional ratings from around the country, are based on the official current positions of challengers to the top title in each category. (Certain titleholders receive an automatic spot in the ratings.)

NWA

World Champion:
RIC FLAIR
243, Minneapolis, MN

1—NIKITA KOLOFF
275, Moscow, Russia

2—TULLY BLANCHARD
235, San Antonio, TX

3—DUSTY RHODES
302, Austin, TX

4—LEX LUGER
268, Chicago, IL

5—SAM HOUSTON
222, Waco, TX

6—BARRY WINDHAM
236, Sweetwater, TX

7—BRAD ARMSTRONG
226, Marietta, GA

8—RONNIE GARVIN
231, Montreal, Quebec

9—ARN ANDERSON
249, Minneapolis, MN

10—RIP OLIVER
245, Tampa, FL

AWA

World Champion:
NICK BOCKWINKEL
245, Beverly Hills, CA

1—LARRY ZBYSZKO
248, Pittsburgh, PA

2—COL. DeBEERS
265, Cape Town, South Africa

3—CURT HENNIG
235, Minneapolis, MN

4—BORIS ZUKHOV
254, Leningrad, Russia

5—SILO SAM
461, Baltimore, MD

6—KEN TIMBS
235, Atlanta, GA

7—SUPER NINJA
263, Japan

8—GREG GAGNE
220, Robbinsdale, MN

9—NINJA GO
238, Japan

10—BRAD RHEINGANS
284, Albuquerque, NM

WWF

World Champion:
HULK HOGAN
302, Venice Beach, CA

1—RANDY SAVAGE
245, Sarasota, FL

2—PAUL ORNDORFF
253, Brandon, FL

3—JAKE ROBERTS
246, Stone Mountain, GA

4—KAMALA
360, Uganda

5—HERCULES HERNANDEZ
275, Tampa, FL

6—RODDY PIPER
231, Glasgow, Scotland

7—MAGNIFICENT MURACO
274, Sunset Beach, HI

8—DICK SLATER
247, Pittsburgh, PA

9—TITO SANTANA
245, Tocula, Mexico

10—JUNKYARD DOG
280, Charlotte, NC

WOMEN

1—SHERRI MARTEL
AWA Women's champion
132, New Orleans, LA

2—MISTY BLUE SIMMES
U.S. & IWF Women's champion
118, Glens Falls, NY

3—WENDI RICHTER
WWC Women's champion
142, Dallas, TX

4—FABULOUS MOOLAH
WWF Women's champion
138, Columbia, SC

5—LELANI KAI
All Pacific Women's champion
127, Honolulu, HI

6—LINDA DALLAS
No. 1 contender: U.S. & IWF title
109, Dallas, TX

7—KAT LeROUX
No. 2 contender: U.S. & IWF title
120, New Orleans, LA

8—CANDI DIVINE
No. 1 contender: AWA title
127, Nashville, TN

9—PENNY MITCHELL
No. 1 contender: WWF title
141, Crane, Missouri

10—VELVET McINTYRE
No. 2 contender: WWF title
135, Dublin, Ireland

OFFICIAL WRESTLING RATINGS

WORLD CHAMP.
1—NIKITA KOLOFF
275, Moscow, Russia
2—TULLY BLANCHARD
235, San Antonio, TX
3—DUSTY RHODES
302, Austin, TX
4—BRAD ARMSTRONG
226, Marietta, GA
5—JIM GARVIN
235, Tampa, FL
6—RONNIE GARVIN
231, Montreal, Quebec
7—RICK RUDE
246, Robbinsdale, MN
8—ARN ANDERSON
249, Minneapolis, MN
9—BILL DUNDEE
214, Melbourne, Australia
10—WAHOO McDANIEL
285, Midland, TX

UWF
1—ONE MAN GANG
468, Chicago, IL
2—TERRY GORDY
289, Chattanooga, TN
3—HACKSAW DUGGAN
280, Glens Falls, NY
4—TERRY TAYLOR
225, Vero Beach, FL
5—MICHAEL HAYES
255, Marietta, GA
6—TED DiBIASE
247, Omaha, NB
7—STEVE WILLIAMS
265, Tulsa, OK
8—EDDIE GILBERT
222, Lexington, KY
9—STING
270, parts unknown
10—SAVANNAH JACK
246, Savannah, GA

WORLD CLASS
1—KEVIN VON ERICH
239, Denton, TX
2—TONY ATLAS
247, Roanoke, VA
3—LANCE VON ERICH
260, Arlington, TX
4—BRIAN ADIAS
238, Denton, TX
5—CRUSHER YURKOF
390, Mt. Laurel, NJ
6—DINGO WARRIOR
280, Queens, NY
7—BLACK BART
261, Pampa, TX
8—MIKE VON ERICH
221, Denton, TX
9—STEVE SIMPSON
230, Johannesburg, South Africa
10—ABDULLAH THE BUTCHER
360, Sudan

FLORIDA
1—LEX LUGER
268, Chicago, IL
2—RON SIMMONS
260, Perry, GA
3—KAREEM MUHAMMAD
297, Africa
4—HACKSAW HIGGINS
320, Buffalo, NY
5—BAD NEWS ALLEN
280, New York, NY
6—KENDALL WINDHAM
220, Sweetwater, TX
7—ED GANTNER
269, Tampa, FL
8—DEWEY FORTE
297, Tampa, FL
9—SEAN ROYAL
235, Tampa, FL
10—BRICKHOUSE BROWN
225, Winter Haven, FL

Most Popular and Most Hated ratings are based on nationwide telephone and arena surveys of wrestling fans and on the volume and character of mail that comes to our offices.

MID-SOUTHERN
1—JERRY LAWLER
234, Memphis, TN
2—BIG BUBBA
407, San Antonio, TX
3—KABUKI
261, Singapore
4—JEFF JARRETT
200, Hendersonville, TN
5—JONATHAN BOYD
287, New Zealand
6—AIKO SATO
238, Tokyo, Japan
7—BILLY TRAVIS
232, Lexington, KY
8—TARZAN GOTO
228, Tokyo
9—GOLIATH
441, Pittsburgh, PA
10—PAUL DIAMOND
235, Thunder Bay, Ontario

CONTINENTAL
1—RIP ROGERS
238, Atlanta, GA
2—KEVIN SULLIVAN
235, Boston, MA
3—EXOTIC ADRIAN STREET
227, South Wales
4—JERRY STUBBS
235, Pensacola, FL
5—TOM PRITCHARD
220, Houston, TX
6—TONY ANTHONY
248, New Orleans, LA
7—STEVE ARMSTRONG
234, Marietta, GA
8—THE BULLET
234, parts unknown
9—JIMMY GOLDEN
234, Montgomery, AL
10—ROBERT FULLER
238, Dyresburg, TN

MOST POPULAR
1—HULK HOGAN
302, Venice Beach, CA
2—DUSTY RHODES
302, Austin, TX
3—RODDY PIPER
231, Glasgow, Scotland
4—NIKITA KOLOFF
275, Moscow, Russia
5—KEVIN VON ERICH
239, Denton, TX
6—LEX LUGER
268, Chicago, IL
7—BARRY WINDHAM
236, Sweetwater, TX
8—HACKSAW DUGGAN
280, Glens Falls, NY
9—RICK STEAMBOAT
238, Honolulu, HI
10—JERRY LAWLER
234, Memphis, TN

MOST HATED
1—RANDY SAVAGE
245, Sarasota, FL
2—RIC FLAIR
243, Minneapolis, MN
3—PAUL ORNDORFF
253, Brandon, FL
4—COL. DeBEERS
265, Cape Town, South Africa
5—BRIAN ADIAS
238, Denton, TX
6—JAKE ROBERTS
246, Stone Mountain, GA
7—EDDIE GILBERT
222, Lexington, TN
8—TULLY BLANCHARD
235, San Antonio, TX
9—ABDULLAH THE BUTCHER
360, Sudan
10—TERRY GORDY
289, Chattanooga, TN

For period ended December 11, 1986

FAN DISPUTE

I read a letter that Theresa K. Moeller wrote in the Winter 1986 issue, and I was confused about what she had to say about Hulk Hogan. She said that Hogan would be too frightened to sign a contract with Hacksaw Duggan, Butch Reed, and Steve Williams. I do not understand this because I watch Hogan wrestle and I think that he is one of the best wrestlers of this century, if not the best. I know that he has not been champ long, but during his reign he has defeated everyone he has been matched against. He has made a name for himself all around the world. Even before he came to the WWF, he went up against stars like Nick Bockwinkel, Harley Race, and Crusher Blackwell. These wrestlers have the quality to be champs of their divisions.

Hulk Hogan elbowsmashes Crusher Blackwell. The WWF champion wrestled Blackwell frequently when he was in the AWA. Joe Meyer believes Hogan has fought enough quality opponents to be considered one of the greats.

When Hogan wrestles he uses very few moves to put away an opponent. This makes him a good wrestler to watch because he rarely has to use illegal measures to win a match. When he does, it is because his opponent goes to them first.

My reaction to the remarks of Theresa Moeller is that I doubt that Hogan would waste his time on such wrestlers as Duggan, Reed, and Williams. Hogan is a much better wrestler than people think. Hogan could take on all three of them at once and he would win. Also, all the wrestling fans I know do not even know these guys. I had the pleasure of seeing Hogan wrestling live and it was unbelievable. I don't care what people think about Hogan. Everyone knows who is the best.

JOE MEYER
Winton, CA

WENDELL? NO, RICK

The most ridiculous wrestler in the sport must be Wendell Cooley, or should I say Rick Casey? His wrestling under two names in different areas is one of the stupidest things I've ever heard of. I'm surprised Stu Saks would waste his time writing an article about Cooley in the Winter 1986 issue of *Wrestling USA* ("Dressing Room Confidential"). Who does Cooley think he's trying to fool? Does he think wrestling fans are that stupid?

Cooley must be so afraid of losing that he feels he has to use a pseudonym. For a professional wrestler, that is an inexcusable lack of guts. If you've worked hard enough to establish your name, you should stick by it. Don't change your name because you wrestle two different styles. Maybe he thinks that if Rick Casey loses, the fans won't remember that Wendell Cooley was the actual loser. That really stinks! Cooley may have a title belt, but he doesn't act like a champion. The whole business disgusts me.

I hope that in the future Mr. Saks will turn his talents toward writing about those who really deserve favorable coverage, not some coward hiding behind a phony name.

ALFRED ESCALERA
Newport News, VA

WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF . . .

Matt Brock's story about Hulk Hogan and Harley Race ("Matt Brock's Looking Back: Harley Race vs. Hulk Hogan" Winter 1986) was quite interesting. I have often wondered what would happen if Hogan wrestled Race today. I am surprised that Race has not yet received a title shot against the champion. This is clearly the fault of the WWF championship committee, as Hogan would never back down from a challenge posed by a man whom he so thoroughly dominated three years ago.

It is up to the committee to make room on Hogan's schedule for a defense—or a series of defenses—against Race. The seven-time NWA World champion deserves nothing less. Age notwithstanding, Race is still one of the finest grapplers in histo-

ry. The man's astounding skill, knowledge, and toughness cannot be ignored. He never backed down from anyone. Gordon Solie once said of Race, "He'll wrestle a buzzsaw and give it the first two rounds." From Gordon Solie, that is praise and respect of the highest order.

Yes, Harley is aging fast, and yes, Hogan is stronger and better than ever, but the match is one that must be made. Wrestling fans the world over would be treated to a bout that would linger in a memory for many years. The King vs. The Champion. It certainly would be something.

HOWARD MAGUIRE
Portland, OR

THE FANTASTICS HAVE GUTS

After I read the article about the barbed wire cage match between The Fantastics and The Sheepherders in the Winter 1986 issue of *Wrestling USA* ("The Fantastics vs. The Sheepherders: The UWF Tag Team Belts Are Worth Their Weight In Blood!"), there was no doubt in my mind that The Fantastics are one of the toughest teams in wrestling.

I'm sick of hearing people say that Bobby Fulton and Tommy Rogers are two gutless pretty boys who spend all their time in the ring doing dropkicks and other cute moves. Their participation in these barbed wire matches proves they are men with unquestionable courage. They wanted the hides of Luke Williams and Butch Miller bad enough, and they went after them. It's no surprise to me that The Sheeps have run away to Florida, away from the only team around that can take their best shots: The Fantastics. Honestly, I don't know if I'd have stomach enough to watch one of these matches in person, and I'm a pretty tough guy. So everybody better stop putting down The Fantastics. They're a great scientific, high-flying team, but they're also tough.

During one of several Sheepherders-Fantastics barbed wire cage matches, Luke Williams rakes Tommy Rogers' head across the wire.

BOBBY DUKE
Shreveport, LA

SUPERFLY IS ONE OF A KIND

Jimmy "Superfly" Snuka is one of the most resilient individuals to ever wrestle. It seems that every time somebody tries to put him out, he comes back for more. Remember how, four years ago, Lou Albano and Ray Stevens tried to cripple him. They couldn't get the job done. Two years ago, Roddy Piper tried to do the same, but he couldn't either. More recently, Col. DeBeers thought he could put the Polynesian superstar on the shelf. Well, Snuka has once again come back for more, and nobody is going to stop him.

When are all these rulebreakers going to learn that Jimmy Snuka is not an ordinary man? They see what a gentle and quiet man he is and they try to take advantage of him. But they forget how he feels inside. Take one look into his eyes and you'll realize that Snuka is a man possessed. Maybe it's something he picked up as a young boy in the wilds of Fiji, or learned in his early days as a wrestler. He is driven by an inner voice that says, "I cannot lose. I will win every time I step into that squared circle. No one can beat me." This is what makes him great.

HORATIO ALLAIN
Fond Du Lac, WI □

Reader comments concerning the sport of wrestling and this magazine are invited. Send your letters to:
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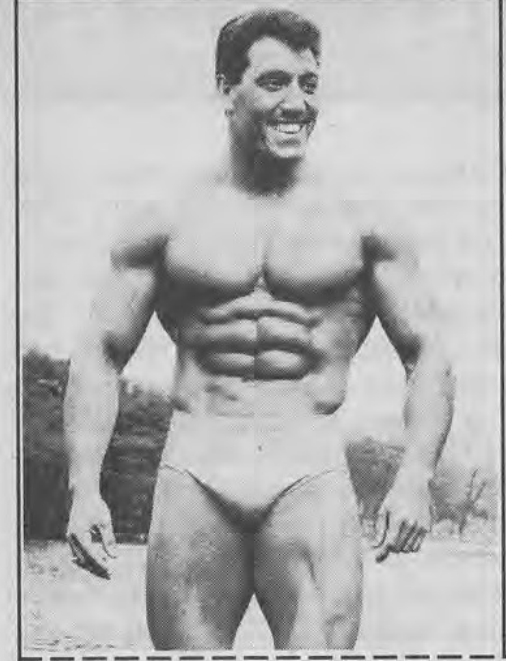

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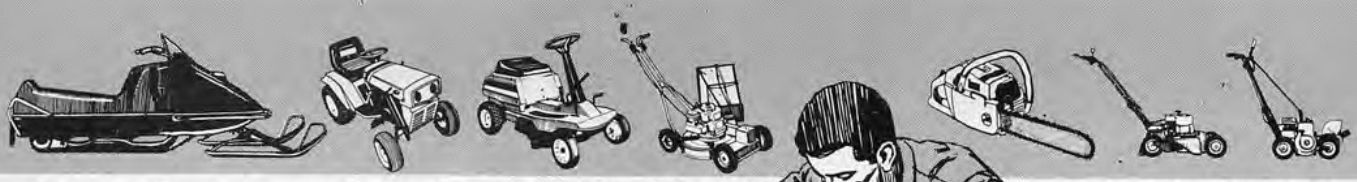

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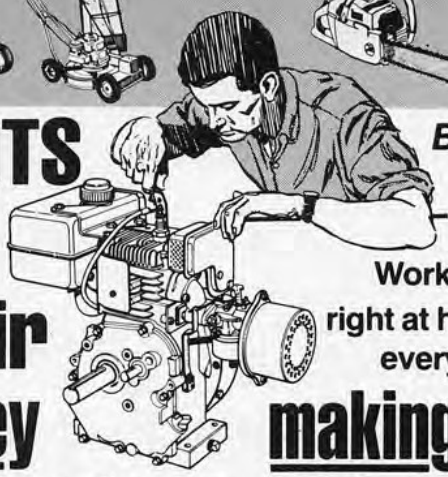

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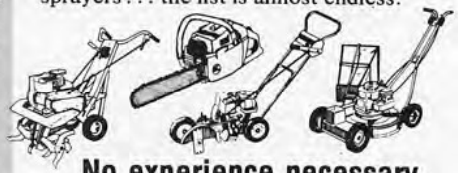

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